



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan's Agenda for APEC Meeting Outlined

*OW161110493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Seattle, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will propose setting up a data line linking Asia and the Pacific to promote regional research and development at this week's Asia-Pacific summit, a Japanese official said Tuesday [16 November]. The proposed information network is designed to make good use of technical data in each country to foster industrial development. The official said it would make it easier to have access to patent information and other technical data.

Hosokawa will be among leaders in Seattle for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit meeting starting late this week, the first summit of the 15-member APEC.

In presenting his proposals, Hosokawa will appeal for protection of intellectual properties such as patents and the need to set up a system to guarantee product quality, the Japanese official said.

The proposal seemingly takes aim at such Southeast Asian nations as Thailand and Singapore which are now transforming their economies into those led by high-tech industries like electronics as research and development is viewed as a key to regional economic growth.

The proposal is one of three to be made by Hosokawa at the APEC meeting. The others call for a meeting of APEC ministers in charge of small- and medium-sized businesses and a forum to promote regional cultural exchanges.

APEC groups the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, Japan, the United States, South Korea, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Canada.

APEC To Issue Appeal on Settling GATT Talks

*OW1511060893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0553 GMT
15 Nov 93*

[Text] Seattle, Nov. 14 KYODO—Member states of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum plan to issue a special statement to the world this week to wrap up the Uruguay Round of global trade talks before the end of the year, Japanese officials said Sunday [14 November].

The officials said an agreement to issue a declaration on the multilateral trade talks came at a meeting of senior APEC officials to lay the groundwork for the upcoming ministerial meeting this week in Seattle.

"There was a clear consensus that we should put out a strong political statement (on the round)," said a Japanese official involved in the preparatory session.

The Uruguay Round of trade liberalization talks, held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), is due to be concluded by December 15 under a make-or-break deadline imposed by the United States.

Foreign and trade ministers from the 15-member APEC group will begin a three-day meeting in Seattle on Wednesday to discuss trade issues.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has also invited top APEC leaders for an informal summit at the end of the ministerial conference for a broader discussion about how to strengthen economic cooperation in the region.

Trade officials involved in the GATT negotiations will work out the language on the Uruguay Round declaration later this week when the APEC ministers wind up their ministerial conference on Friday. In addition to the declaration on the Uruguay Round, the APEC ministers are expected to create a trade and investment framework to foster the flow of region-wide trade and investment, APEC officials said.

APEC consists of the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. The APEC roster will increase to 17 this week with the addition of Mexico and Papua New Guinea into the membership.

There is still no consensus among APEC members on the question of Chilean membership because of U.S. opposition.

Japan To Table Market Access Package by 19 Nov

*OW1611012893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0113 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 15 KYODO—Japan will table a comprehensive access offer on goods by Friday [19 November] as part of the negotiations on opening up global trade, a Japanese Government source said Monday. The market access package will stipulate a 60 percent reduction in tariffs on industrial goods but will not include the controversial farm dossier which covers the closed Japanese rice market, the source said. Tokyo will table its plan to cut tariffs for farm imports at a later date.

Japan made the pledge to table the package to an unofficial meeting of trade negotiators in an attempt to work out a comprehensive market access agreement for the Uruguay Round of trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The package will spell out planned revisions of tariffs on some 6,800 industrial goods, with the average tariff rate falling below 2 percent, down from the current 3.8 percent. Japan will also pledge to scrap tariffs altogether on six additional categories of products, including electronics and paper or pulp.

The United States said it will table its own packages for both industrial and agricultural products later this week, regardless of the outcome of Wednesday's vote in the U.S. Congress on the North American Free trade Agreement.

The European Community said it will make some additions to the tariff reduction plan which it announced late October.

Global Environment Committee Meets in Tokyo

OW1111064793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT
11 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Japanese technology could prevent Asia's economic development from causing an environmental disaster with global implications. Secretary General of the 1992 Earth Summit Maurice Strong said Thursday [11 November].

Strong told a meeting of the Japanese Global Environment Committee at a Tokyo hotel that "the future of the planet has now moved to Asia" but much of Asia's economic growth is "on an unsustainable path which could result in an environmental disaster of global proportions.

"Today's source of added advantage is driven through knowledge and capital," Strong told committee members from business, media, local autonomous bodies, consumer and conservationist groups, and academic societies.

"Japan has the advantage in its innovative, technologically driven products which have modest energy use and these products can contribute to what I call lifestyles of sophisticated modesty.

"I believe you have an absolutely vital role."

Strong, who now chairs the nongovernmental Earth Council, based in Costa Rica, said Japan's energy saving and pollution control technologies, if applied to China's forecast increase in thermal power production, could save China 350 million tons of coal annually.

"If China develops in an environmentally unsound manner, it will directly impact on the environment in Japan," Strong said.

"I believe that if the developing countries do not get our support, the sustainable world we need to live in will not be possible."

Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who is an adviser to the committee, and Director General of the Environment Agency Wakako Hironaka, were also at the meeting.

Hironaka told the meeting she expects the Diet to pass the Basic Environment Law, legislation she describes as "Japan's environmental constitution," on Friday.

The Environment Agency took the initiative in establishing the committee in May 1991 to reflect community views on environmental issues but the committee was unable to convene for 18 months because of internal differences.

Business leader Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), heads the committee, which has more than 150 members.

The November meeting, the first since May 1992, was hurriedly convened to coincide with Strong's visit to Japan to attend the Japanese business leaders' conference on environment and development, sponsored by a major financial daily newspaper, at the U.N. University.

Asia-Pacific Cities Discuss Environment Issues

OW1611045393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0241 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Representatives from cities in the Asia-Pacific region began a weeklong get-together with the theme "Economic Activity and the Environment" in Tokyo on Tuesday [16 November]. Attending the meeting of the Asia-Pacific sister cities exchange are a total of 60 representatives from cities in 14 foreign countries and 15 Japanese municipal governments, organizers said.

Under the sponsorship of the Home Affairs Ministry and the Foreign Ministry, the convention aims to provide a forum for the sister city authorities to discuss matters of mutual concern and to foster closer ties. This is the second such Asia-Pacific exchange, organizers said.

The morning was taken up by the executive committee session but subcommittee meetings in the afternoon planned to discuss two issues—"economic activity and the role of self-governing bodies" and "developing consideration for the environment."

From Thursday the Japanese cities represented will host the delegates from their respective sister cities and the visit will culminate in a concluding session next Monday in Tokyo.

Japan

Hosokawa Not To 'Touch on' Tax Cut in U.S.

OW1611021293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0136 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Tuesday [16 November] Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will not touch on the size of income tax cut when he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Seattle later this week.

"I guess the amount will not be discussed," Fujii told a regular press conference after the cabinet meeting. But he repeated that Hosokawa will brief Clinton over a tax reform report to be submitted by the Governmental Tax Commission before he leaves Friday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Seattle.

Considering the reports that the U.S. side is expected to call on Japan to delay increasing its consumption tax by several years, Fujii said such specific talks are unlikely to be held at the meeting in Seattle. But he also said he did not know how much weight would be placed on Japan's tax reform because the finance minister expects the Hosokawa-Clinton meeting to focus on the world economy.

Fujii said the Advisory Tax Panel's report will propose the basic proposals on tax reform but suggested that it will not include any specific figures on an income tax cut and a consumption tax hike or a method to secure financial resources.

Meanwhile, he reiterated that his ministry is not considering any additional measures to stimulate the economy or to shore up the flagging stock market.

Considering the slow effect on the economy despite the steady progress of public works projects, Fujii said "it's a structural problem" and the government is trying to ease regulations to restructure the economy.

Fujii said he told cabinet ministers that the government has already contracted out 78.1 percent of public works outlays earmarked for the initial fiscal 1993 budget, topping the 75 percent target for the April to September half of the fiscal year.

As for public works added in the June supplementary budget, Fujii said contracts have already reached 40.7 percent.

Hosokawa Pledges Positive Role in Global Growth

OW1611134993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa pledged Tuesday [16 November] that Japan will play a positive role in promoting global

economic growth at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, government sources said.

Hosokawa, who will attend the forum's informal summit in Seattle, Washington, this week made the remark in a meeting with media representatives from Asian countries, the sources said. He is scheduled to leave Tokyo on Friday to attend the session. The sources said the prime minister expressed his resolve to turn the summit into a forum for constructive discussions toward a recovery of the world economy.

Hosokawa reiterated that the 15-nation forum, initiated in 1989, will not aim to form a free economic zone because it is not practical for Asian nations with versatile systems to engage in trade under the same rules, they said. He said the North American Free Trade Agreement will contribute to reactivating and developing the Asian economy, the sources said. He expressed hope that the agreement will not lead to the emergence of protectionism, they said.

Hosokawa said Japan will promote technology transfer to Asian countries through official development assistance, they said.

Referring to the stalled Uruguay Round of world trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Hosokawa predicted the APEC summit will reaffirm the determination of member countries to press for a successful conclusion of the negotiations, the sources said.

Government Delays Farm Market Access Offer

OW1611171093 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] On 15 November, Japan disclosed that although it will submit to GATT by the end of this week, a list of mineral and industrial products for which it will reduce tariffs, it plans to hold off submitting a similar list of agricultural products, such as rice, until after next week. The disclosure was made at an informal meeting of GATT's Uruguay Round of trade talks held the same day, with the deadline for negotiations only one month away.

GATT member nations are required to submit a list of items on which they plan to reduce or remove tariffs and other trade barriers and provide more market access. The deadline for submitting such lists has been set for the end of this week.

On 15 November, at an informal meeting of the Uruguay Round held in Geneva, a Japanese Government representative disclosed that Japan will submit, by the end of this week, a list of about 6,800 mineral and industrial products for which it plans to reduce tariffs. However, he also disclosed that Japan will not table its market access offer on rice and other agricultural products, which have been a focal point in the trade talks, by the weekend.

deadline, adding that it will submit the market access package at a latter date upon completion of the farm products list.

Meanwhile, Eijiro Hata, minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, said at a news conference following a regular cabinet meeting [on 16 November] that negotiations at the Uruguay Round of trade talks are not proceeding as well as the GATT secretariat had expected. He said that even though the deadline for submitting the list of tariff-reduction items is approaching, he sees no prospect for presenting such a list regarding farm products. The farm minister made it known officially that Japan plans to hold off submitting this list for the time being and will present it to GATT after the government has made a final decision on the rice issue.

Hata: Government Not To Table Tariff Package

OW1611032993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japan has no plan to table its market access offer on farm products to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) at least for the time being, the farm minister said Tuesday [16 November].

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Eijiro Hata told a press conference following a regular cabinet meeting that he sees "no prospect" for presenting such a package.

Hata noted little progress has been made in the negotiations to liberalize farm trade in the GATT-sponsored Uruguay Round of global trade talks. The negotiations are not proceeding as well as the GATT Secretariat had expected, he said.

Japan's major trade partners, too, are unlikely to table their tariff-level packages for farm trade by the weekend deadline, Hata said.

"Other countries also have their own problems (concerning farm trade)," he said.

Japan plans to table a market access package for industrial products, including major tariff reductions, Friday.

Israeli Mission Invites Firms To Invest in Gaza

OW1511151293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1419 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 15 KYODO—A visiting Israeli mission Monday [15 November] invited Japanese businesses to invest in joint ventures in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank regions which will be provisionally governed by Palestinians.

The mission said a joint investment company, made up of Israeli and Palestinian enterprises, a Spanish bank and a Moroccan investor, was formed last month to promote ventures in Gaza.

It will become possible in the near future for Japanese enterprises to participate in the investment company, according to the mission.

Reportage on Political Reform Bills Continues

Hosokawa Holds News Conference

OW1611035793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1724 GMT 15 Nov 93

[News conference by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa at the prime minister's official residence with NHK, NISHI NIHON SHIMBUN, and other unidentified reporters—live]

[Text] [Dean of press corps] We would like to start the news conference. First, representatives from NHK and NISHI NIHON SHIMBUN will present a couple of questions, and then other reporters will ask questions as time permits. Is that all right with you, sir?

[Hosokawa] Yes, that will be fine.

[Reporter] Yohei Kono, president of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], gave a news conference earlier to explain his meeting with you that lasted for more than two hours overnight, and he said it failed to bring an agreement. Could you explain the major points of discussion in the meeting, including the results?

[Hosokawa] For a duration of more than two hours—from last night into early this morning—we talked to each other without anyone else present. I believe we were able to speak quite frankly and thoroughly. To my regret, the meeting failed to bring about an agreement even though we both had a common feeling that something needed to be done.

It is very regrettable that we were unable to overcome the wall we both thought we might be able to overcome. But I think we were able to discuss all that could be discussed.

Before explaining the details, I would like to tell you about my basic thinking on political reform. Discussions on this political reform issue have continued for the past five years. During that period, two cabinets have gone down, embroiled in the issue.

Meanwhile, there are now so many problems to be dealt with at home and abroad. One of them is economic stimulus measures. I think what most of the nation's people want now is for the government to get this political reform issue over once and for all, and to tackle other urgent issues. I did not point this out to him at the meeting, but I think Kono feels the same way.

I did tell him, however, that in this context and in view of the time needed by the House of Councillors to review the bills, I want his cooperation in having the bills on political reform acted on by the House of Representatives by 18 November.

Some agreements were arrived at in six floor group meetings. But differences of views still remain in other areas that need to be resolved. Hence, we talked about these points which include the question of the number of seats in the lower house.

We first talked about the question of public contributions of political funds. The government is willing to accept the LDP proposal to set the amount of public contributions at 250 yen per head of population. In consideration of public views on the problem of politics and money, we thought the LDP proposal would be acceptable. Based on this thinking, we were willing to yield our stand on the matter and to agree to the LDP proposal. That was what I announced to him.

Then about the question of the total number of seats in the lower house and the assigning of seats. I said the total number of seats should be 500—274 elected from single-seat districts and 226 seats from the proportional representation system. The original government draft envisaged allocating 250 to single-seat districts and 250 to the proportional representation—on a 50-50 basis. But what I proposed was: First of all, to assign one seat to each of the 47 major cities and prefectures for election from the single-seat district system, and subtract that number from the total of 500, and then divide the balance by two to get the number of lower house representatives elected from the two systems—the single-seat district system and the proportional representation system. The total number to be elected from the single-seat districts would then come to 274.

This means the number of prefectures with two single-seat districts will decrease to four from seven under the original government draft. This also means that whereas under the initial draft, the difference in weight of a vote would be one to 1.89 [one of the districts with the largest population against 1.89 of the district with the smallest population], under the new proposal the difference will change to one to 1.86. The number in the LDP proposal is one to 1.82.

I explained the government's new proposal is the best it can do while retaining its basic policy on the matter. But his position was his party cannot accept any other proposal but that which provides 300 seats for single-seat districts. He said his party can think about raising the total seats to 500 from the 471 it proposes, but the number of 300 seats for single-seat districts is the basic condition. That was what he said.

Then, we talked about the issue of proportional representation constituencies. I pointed out to him the LDP-proposed concept of dividing the nation into 47 constituencies broken down by major cities and prefectures does not conform to the thinking sought in the proportional representation system itself. I added it is also impossible for anyone to understand the idea of establishing larger constituencies, which some people call blocs. On these grounds, I asked him to accept one

nationwide constituency for the proportional representation system. But, he responded that the people's political will cannot be adequately expressed under the system of having 274 single-seat districts and one national constituency for proportional representation. In essence what he said was, his party cannot agree to one national constituency for the proportional representation system.

On the method of voting, I asked him to accept the government proposal for a two-vote-per-voter system [one for an individual candidate in a single-seat district; one for a party in proportional representation]. His position was that he cannot accept anything but the one-vote-per-voter system [a vote for an individual candidate also counts as a vote for the candidate's party in proportional representation], and we were unable to come to an agreement on that question either—to my regret.

Finally on the question of corporate donations, I told him that in view of the people's criticism of corporate donations to individual politicians, we think the system of allowing such donations should be banned. But his stand was that his party cannot agree to it. He thinks corporate donations to individual politicians should be allowed to continue. We were unable to come closer to each other on all these questions—to my regret.

As I said earlier, if we think about the time needed by the House of Councillors to deliberate the bills, we do not have much time left.

It will indeed be regrettable if the matter has to go ahead without agreements having been arrived at with the LDP. But if the party's position is that it does not want to compromise, then, as far as we are concerned, we have no choice but to go ahead with it solemnly [shuku shuku toshite]. It is truly regrettable, but we will have to proceed that way.

That is how we ended the meeting. That is my report to you on it.

[Reporter] President Kono indicated that a certain possibility remains for another meeting. Prime minister, do you think there is any possibility of a second meeting?

[Hosokawa] Today, we devoted sufficient time to a thoroughgoing discussion. Moreover, committee deliberations have been held for over 120 hours. I feel there is an unresolvable gap. The difference lies in the basic issues. Therefore, it will be very difficult to come up with a compromise plan, or to choose between the two proposals. I feel this is true for all four issues I just mentioned. Basically, I think all the arguments were exhausted in today's discussion.

[Reporter] In that case, are you thinking of the possibility of passing the bills today?

[Hosokawa] This will have to be decided by the committee. I am not in a position to make a statement here.

[Dean of Press Corps] Reporters from other companies, please go ahead.

[Reporter] Will the revisions you decided upon with the LDP today be included as government amendments to the bills?

[Hosokawa] Yes. We will submit them as amendments from the ruling parties.

[Reporter] You said that in the end, you would have to deal with the matter solemnly. What was President Kono's response to that? And my second question is: While only the Diet has the power to handle the bills, I am sure the ruling coalition parties will have to consider the prime minister's wishes about whether or not to pass them. May I ask what you think about going ahead to pass the bills?

[Hosokawa] We also need to provide time for the House of Councillors to discuss the bills, as I said to President Kono today. Right now, this is a decision that the committee will make. I will not talk about this point. As to Kono's response to my remark on dealing with the matter solemnly, I do not remember his exact words, but he said we had had a very thorough discussion. While he did not say there was nothing we could do about the situation, he said it was really regrettable that things turned out like this. On my part, before I parted with Kono I also said it was really regrettable, but we could not help it.

[Reporter] Are you going to include such points as 274 seats for the single-seat constituencies and the LDP's proposal for public funding for political parties in the ruling parties' amendments to the reform bills?

[Hosokawa] Yes, 274 seats, and we will adopt the LDP's proposal for public funding for political parties.

[Reporter] You will also include all other matters agreed upon in consultations between the ruling and opposition parties as revisions?

[Hosokawa] Yes. There are issues already agreed upon by the committees. These will naturally be included in the amendments. Furthermore, there are matters decided upon at the six-party meeting. They will all be included and submitted as amendments from the ruling parties.

[Reporter] Do you think you can win the people's understanding after your meeting with Kono ended in such a manner?

[Hosokawa] As I said earlier, we have devoted so much time to this, and besides, deliberations on political reform have been going on continuously for the past five years. This has gone through discussion at the committee level, and deliberations in both houses of the Diet on various angles of the problem. Of course, the lower house has also done what it could. Considering what has transpired so far, after my meeting today with President Kono, I feel we have done all that is possible.

[Reporter] About how you came up with 274 seats, did you just take the average of the figures proposed by the government and the LDP, or did you attach importance to the point that all 47 prefectural level administrative units [to-do-fu-ken, referring to 43 prefectures plus Tokyo, Hokkaido, Kyoto, and Osaka] should have a representative?

[Hosokawa] It was not a matter of adding up the figure we proposed and the LDP figure, and dividing by two. The LDP proposed that in order to make a clear choice on which should be the ruling party, it would like to make the LDP colors strongly visible. We figure to realize this, one seat each should first be assigned to prefectural level units. Putting this aside, for the rest, we came up with a figure by taking the average of the two proposed figures.

[Reporter] Regarding public funding for political parties, you have agreed to adopt the LDP proposal. According to Kono's explanation, under this system some political parties may even be spending more than they used to. How would you respond to this point?

[Hosokawa] Regarding public funding for political parties, I am sure there are various methods of calculation. As you said, some parties may even be able to increase their political spending in the future. However, this system will start in 1995, to be accurate. It is possible that what used to be opposition parties may be conducting political activities as ruling parties. What both sides are saying may not be completely persuasive to the other party. However, from the point of view of having the people take up the financial burden for the minimum cost of democracy, it will be necessary to compute the cost based on a reasonable formula. In such a case, considering the recent trend of public opinion, while our figure was derived from a calculation of political activities from 1989 to 1991, we decided there is a need to listen to what the LDP is saying. We therefore took the decision to agree to the LDP's proposal.

[Reporter] How about funding for the political activities of local assemblymen?

[Hosokawa] This issue has, of course, been discussed. However, there is the question of what to do about funding for the political activities of local assemblymen, which has also been taken up in the committee and the plenary session of the lower house, and which came up in today's meeting with Kono. From a larger perspective, and considering the relationship between businesses and politicians as seen from recent incidents, we believe abolishing corporate donations has higher priority in a broader context. It is a fact that local assemblymen receive assistance from their factions. They all belong to various factions and receive aid from those factions. [pauses] In this regard, the fact is, most local assembly chairmen, mayors, and assemblymen, and members of assemblies of chartered cities [seirei toshi] and prefectures, belong to one party or another. Thus, it is possible that financial aid can be obtained from local chapters of

political parties. I told Kono they may be able to cover their expenses with such aid.

[Reporter] You said you have exhausted all forms of discussion and compromised to the utmost limit. Are you saying there is no possibility for further revisions based on discussions in the House of Councillors?

[Hosokawa] Come again.

[Reporter] Will there be no possibility of further amendments based on deliberations in the upper house?

[Hosokawa] In any case, I believe that at this point, we have made all the possible concessions we can make, and this is the best thing we can come up with.

[Reporter] Regarding the distribution of Diet seats between single-seat constituencies and proportional representatives, which now stands at 274 seats to 226 seats, if you submitted the bills in the belief that 250 seats for each was the correct combination, why did you have to come up with the new figures even though the LDP would not even agree to it? Is this to show that you have worked really hard?

[Hosokawa] Of course, 250 seats to 250 seats was the arrangement agreed upon by the eight groups in the ruling coalition. We submitted the bill in the belief that this was the best combination. However, the issue now has to do with people outside the framework of the eight ruling groups, or to do with the opposition LDP. Then, we thought the basic approach under a parliamentary democracy is to compromise as much as possible in the process of discussions. Therefore, after having presented a compromise plan, I think the right thing to do is to carry on with the revised plan.

[Reporter] Are you concerned that the final voting in the lower house may have to be conducted in an abnormal manner?

[Hosokawa] Well, I do not really know. In any case, we have tried as hard as we can to talk things over, at least with President Kono. I hope members of the opposition LDP will also understand.

[Reporter] Your talks with the opposition LDP have ended without reaching agreement. How about the ruling parties? Will they all support you?

[Hosokawa] Yes.

[Reporter] Are you confident about voting results in the Diet?

[Hosokawa] Yes. I was given a free hand in this matter. A while ago, I made a report to representatives or leaders of the ruling parties. They have expressed their agreement. Excuse me. [pointing at a reporter]

[Reporter] I may be asking the same question. Among Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] members there

are some who are not happy with the way the government proposes allocating seats in the lower house election system. Do you not foresee any problems in consolidating and finalizing the direction of the ruling parties regarding the political reform bills?

[Hosokawa] I think I can gain their understanding. Before the meeting, I talked with people in the party and received their permission to make a decision on these issues under my responsibility. If there is anything they are not happy about regarding the decisions I made, then it will be an issue of my taking responsibility.

[Dean of Press Corps] It looks like the time is almost up.

[Reporter] In the course of discussions with Kono, did you have to change your position so that it would mean a deviation from your original position?

[Hosokawa] For instance, we talked about the issue of proportional representation constituencies—on whether it should be one nationwide constituency or 47 constituencies drawn along prefectoral borders—even though we were unable to come to any conclusion on that question. In connection with this issue, even though it was totally a personal view; it was not something I had talked over with the ruling parties; and I could be reproached for making such suggestions later on. I asked Kono whether cutting the constituency into some large blocs would be acceptable to him. But, he said even that was unacceptable. So we agreed to forget the suggestion.

[Reporter] [indistinct as he does not have a microphone]

[Hosokawa] I think I have answered that question already. As I said earlier, we cannot keep on discussing these issues forever. I believe what the people of this nation want the government to do now is to conclude discussions and be done with this matter. I think we should do all we can in discussions and then go on ahead to tackle other issues facing us. I think that is one of the rules of democracy.

LDP's Kono Holds News Conference

OW1611041293 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1702 GMT 15 Nov 93

[News conference by Yohei Kono, president of the Liberal Democratic Party, with unidentified correspondents at the Diet building in Tokyo—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Kono] ... A proposal was made on setting 274 seats, instead of 250 as mentioned in the original proposal, for single-seat districts. And an explanation was given for the basis on which they have reached this number, 274. However, we feel that there is a great difference between the number of 274 for single-seat districts and our ideas. If the number is set at 274 and when it is viewed from the national standpoint, two electoral districts will be set up in each of the 47 prefectures. In other words, there will be as many as four prefectures from which only two Diet members will be

elected. It will probably be very difficult to say that local opinions will be sufficiently represented by such a system, not to mention the fact that concerning the issue on units for proportional representation constituency, they insisted on the proposal for setting one nationwide constituency.

In this connection, if it should be decided on electing only two Diet members from each single-seat district and setting one nationwide constituency for the proportional representation constituency, we feel that under such a representation system, the House of Representatives cannot possibly reflect local opinions and represent localities as it was originally devised. I feel that the two houses, both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors, should possess definitely different characters and structures. While members of the House of Councillors should be elected from the national constituency, those of the House of Representatives should be elected from prefectures. And we must abide by this basic principle.

If members of the House of Representatives are to be elected on the basis of the system with the national constituency as a unit, wherein does the difference between the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors lie? Then, Japan's existing parliamentary democracy, which is based on the two-house system of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors, is bound to conspicuously lose its characteristics. And I informed Prime Minister Hosokawa that we cannot possibly agree on this point. I stated that we cannot agree to the idea of setting 274 seats for single-seat districts and one nationwide constituency as the proportional representation constituency.

Moreover, touching on the issue of public subsidies, the prime minister stated that they will agree to the LDP plan. It is most delightful that our party's proposal has been accepted. However, even if our proposal is accepted, I feel that as it has been frequently mentioned, there is still a possibility that when this huge amount of public subsidies is distributed among political parties, funds exceeding the amount they used to spend will be distributed among them, or public subsidies will thus be given them, and the general public will not give its consent. Is it desirable for public subsidies to exceed the amount of funds that political parties used to spend? I feel that we should lend our ears to this view. Therefore, it is most delightful that our proposal has been accepted but I feel further discussions should be held on the issue of methods of distribution of public subsidies. This is what I have stated.

With regard to the issue on corporate donations, it was stated that the original government proposal should be maintained. At local public hearings, local assemblymen, or local mayors have stated that based on the government proposal, it will be impossible for them to engage in political activities in a satisfactory way. Despite the fact that so many views have been expressed by local people and so many public hearings have been held in various

localities, I feel it is most regrettable that none of their views have been reflected in the bill or made into practical use at all.

I suggested that further discussions should be held on this issue. However, since it was stated that they have no idea of changing the original government draft bill, it is regrettable but we cannot agree to this point either, and I expressed our hope that further efforts should be made to seek views of local people and take a position of listening to their views with humility. And it is regrettable that we cannot agree to this point.

As for the voting system, on the issue as to whether one vote or two votes should be given for each voter, both sides insisted on their original proposal. As a result, both sides failed to reach an accord on this issue, either.

As I have stated in the beginning, I think that through our talks, each of us has expressed our own views in full. I feel that through further talks, an accord may be reached in some respects. However, when it comes to the question as to whether an accord can be reached on all issues, I certainly have no immediate confidence because of the differences in our views. I did feel that there may be some aspects on which we could have been able to find an accord through talks. However, the result turned out to be the fact that we had to stop at this point today.

Since this is an issue of great significance, we hope that the government will take our ideas into further consideration. With such a feeling at heart, I concluded the talks. This is all that I would like to report now.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Kono] Shall I say the prime minister or the ruling parties? They seem to be paying great attention to the issue of time. As far as I am concerned, if I should be asked to have another round of talks, I feel no reluctance to accept it. Well, at any rate, this is the result after our talks for full two hours and each of us has done our utmost trying to work out an accord in one way or another. But our talks were not a simple or easy-going conversation so that we may change our views easily after one night's sleep. We had serious talks with each of us trying to somehow work out an accord. As for another round of talks, unless such talks will be held on the basis of a different situation, I don't think we can hope for good results from another round of talks if it should be held under the same situation as we have now.

[Reporter] My question concerns the committee session to be held tomorrow. If there should be no changes, would you think that it will be inevitable for board members to decide on putting the bill to a vote?

[Kono] I don't think so. As far as the committee is concerned, I think board members will make a decision based on their judgment. And as far as we are concerned, I would like to have consultations with responsible persons, including the secretary general. We would like to have consultations on how to deal with this issue.

[Reporter] As I listened to your report just now, [words indistinct]

[Kono] Yes, that's right. First, the government gave me an explanation on various issues, and I have made my comments on them.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Kono] As far as the number is concerned, I stated that we would insist on 300.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Kono] As for the proportional representation constituency, it is just as I stated before. I said that according to the basic structure of the two-house system, constituencies for the House of Representatives election should be drawn along prefectural borders while there should be one nationwide constituency for the House of Councillors election.

[Reporter] According to the government proposal, the number set for single-seat districts is 274, which seems to be rather awkward. How did Prime Minister Hosokawa explain this number?

[Kono] The basis for the number of 274 lies in the fact that first, one seat is distributed to each of the 47 prefectures. And then, 47 is deducted from the total number of 500. Then, the result is divided by two and then 47 is added. This is how they say they get the number 274. However, I don't know whether it is actually the basis for the calculation or not.

[Reporter] You are saying the LDP cannot agree to the government's proposed bills. What are you going to do about participation in discussions at the committee and plenary session of the lower house?

[Kono] As I said earlier, I will have to talk with the secretary general, the executive members, and officials in charge of the committee.

[Reporter] Some LDP members attended the committee meeting today, and some even approve of the government's proposal. How will you deal with them?

[Kono] I have not heard anything to that effect. The three LDP members who attended the meeting today probably did so because of inadequate communication from the Diet Affairs Committee chairman. I have been informed the chairman promised to be more thorough in future communications with party members.

[Reporter] I understand that you have always placed utmost importance on party unity. In that sense, do you think your decision is the best you could make under the circumstances?

[Kono] Yes. [pauses] Before I made this decision, I gave serious and thorough thought to my exchanges with the prime minister. I believe this political reform is extremely important. I made my decision after seriously considering all the details of the reform.

[Reporter] Regarding how you would handle this problem in the Diet, you said you are going to enter discussions about it. Did any concrete ideas on whether the reform bills will be forced through the Diet, or whether any further revisions would be attempted come from Prime Minister Hosokawa?

[Kono] The two of us talked for two hours. We exchanged views and considered various things together. However, the result is: We were not able to reach agreement.

[Reporter] Did you ask for any further concessions from the ruling parties?

[Kono] I have just answered that question.

[Reporter] About the 300 seats, you have not compromised at all.

[Kono] As I have said time and again, that is what we believe in. There is nothing we can do about it. It is not a matter where you can haggle for five more seats after being offered 274. Our proposal has its basis.

[Reporter] The issue of the electoral system naturally has to do with future politics. This probably came up in your meeting with the prime minister...

[Kono interrupting] Of course.

[Reporter continues] Can you tell us...

[Kono interrupting] I will refrain from talking about this subject today.

[Reporter] Before you went to the meeting, on which issues did you feel that progress would be possible?

[Kono] I had a vague feeling that I would be able to win the prime minister's understanding on a number of topics. However, the outcome is as it is because he has to take into consideration the ruling coalition parties. Thus, I feel that if we hold talks again under similar conditions, it will be difficult to reach agreement. However, if the conditions and the atmosphere change, it might be useful to hold talks again.

[Reporter] What sort of difference in conditions...

[Kono interrupting] Oh, it was just a thought. I am not referring to any particular situation.

[Reporter] As mentioned earlier, there are some LDP Diet members who hold different views. In view of the result of this meeting, as party president, what will you do to maintain party unity?

[Kono] Since this is a crucial period for our party, I will ask them to unite in dealing with this matter. I will explain it to them and seek their understanding.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Kono] Well, regarding what to do from now on, I would like to discuss it with the four key party officials and other party members. Is that all? Thank you.

Hosokawa, Kono Continue Meeting

OW1511163193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1616 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Liberal Democratic Party President Yohei Kono continued talks Monday [15 November] midnight through early Tuesday morning in a last-ditch effort to reconcile their differences over key political and electoral reform bills, officials said. The one-to-one meeting, which began around 11:40 P.M. Monday, was still under way as of 1:15 A.M. Tuesday at the Diet building, the officials said.

The two leaders secured a mandate to strike compromise agreements prior to the talk, they said.

Hosokawa wants to clear the bills through a plenary session of the House of Representatives on Thursday by putting them to a floor vote on Tuesday at the chamber's special committee on political reform, Diet sources said. He earlier vowed to secure the bills' passage through the lower chamber before his departure to Seattle to attend a summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

The two leaders will give separate news conferences after wrapping up their talk, regardless of the outcome, they said.

Hosokawa, Kono Fail To Agree

OW1511232293 Tokyo KYODO in English 2308 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said after talks lasting into the early hours of Tuesday [16 November] that he has failed to agree with Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Yohei Kono on the final shape of long-debated political reform. "To my regret, we could not reach an agreement," Hosokawa said at a news conference after his two-hour session with the leader of the main opposition party ended at 1:48 A.M.

With the tête-à-tête achieving no progress, he said the ruling coalition has no choice but to put to a vote the government-proposed political reform package at a House of Representatives special committee on reform and in the full lower house.

"We could not bridge the gap that I thought could be bridged," Hosokawa said, adding that with the LDP refusing to shift, the next step for the coalition is to put its own package to a vote.

The seven-party coalition will partially modify its package in response to the LDP's demands and conclude

a lower house panel debate Tuesday morning, hoping to push it through the full chamber Thursday, coalition sources said.

Hosokawa has staked his political future on passage through parliament of political reform bills aimed at ending deeply entrenched corruption in Japanese public life. To achieve his pledge, the bills must clear the lower house by around Friday at the latest to ensure sufficient time for deliberations in the House of Councillors. The current Diet session closes December 15 but could be extended for a certain period.

Reform featuring electoral changes and tighter curbs on political funding has topped the agenda in Japan for the past five years following a series of scandals involving LDP politicians.

Hosokawa's two immediate LDP predecessors, Kiichi Miyazawa and Toshiki Kaifu, lost power after failing to get reform bills onto the statute book.

The coalition government and the LDP have been at loggerheads over key points of each other's reform packages, including how to change the system for lower house elections.

The government bills call for the replacement of multi-seat constituencies for the 511-seat lower house with a system combining 250 directly elected seats, one per constituency, with 250 seats elected through proportional representation.

The LDP's counterproposals seek a 471-seat system combining 300 single-seat constituencies and 171 seats distributed under proportional representation.

In the two-hour face-off session with Kono, Hosokawa said he made a concession to the LDP, toppled from power in August for the first time in 38 years, and proposed increasing the number of single-seat districts to 274 and reducing seats allocated by proportional representation to 226. But Kono insisted that there should be 300 single-seat constituencies and rejected the compromise plan.

"Although we discussed each other's plans, we could not reach an accord," Kono said at a separate news conference. He said they made "serious efforts to hammer out a deal."

An LDP proposal for a single-vote system, in which a vote for a candidate in a constituency would automatically count for their party under proportional representation, was rejected by Hosokawa, who clung to the government's plan under which each voter would cast two votes.

The premier also turned down an LDP call for the scrapping of a government-proposed ban on donations by business corporations to individual politicians. The government proposal would allow private firms to give donations to political parties and their fund-raising organizations.

But he hinted that he would cut the amount of money from state coffers paid to fund political parties to the LDP-proposed 30.9 billion yen from the originally planned 41.4 billion yen.

Hosokawa said his coalition government will modify its package on the balance of single-seat constituencies and proportional representation in the lower house, as well as the amount of government subsidies for political parties as he proposed in the meeting with Kono.

Both Hosokawa and Kono indicated it is unlikely that they will hold another round of top-level negotiations to seek a compromise agreement on the final framework of political reform. Hosokawa said, "Our discussion has almost run its course," and Kono said talks with Hosokawa would make no progress unless the coalition made further concessions on the LDP reform plans.

"What the general public expects from us politicians is to put an end to long-delayed political reform efforts and tackle other issues of concern," the premier said. "I believe this is the way parliamentary democracy should be—to go ahead after as much discussion as possible."

Hosokawa, LDP's Kono Meet Again

*OW1611014893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0141 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Yohei Kono, president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), met briefly Tuesday [16 November] morning in the Diet in the wake of their failure earlier in the day to reach an accord on political reform bills.

Yoshiro Mori, LDP secretary general, accompanied Kono at the meeting and Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura was also present, government officials said. The contents of the talks were not immediately known.

The seven-party coalition aims to conclude a House of Representatives panel debate Tuesday in a bid to push the reform bill package through the full lower house Thursday, the officials said.

In their meeting in the early hours of Tuesday, Hosokawa and Kono failed to reach a compromise on getting the reform package through the lower house.

Diet Committee Said Set To Vote

*OW1611053193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0505 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—The ruling seven-party coalition decided to put the government's political and electoral reform bills to a vote at a key parliamentary committee Tuesday [16 November] despite protests from the opposition camp, coalition officials said.

The decision to put the package of four bills to a vote at the House of Representatives' Special Committee on

Political Reform received final approval at a meeting of policy experts of the coalition partners Tuesday morning, they said.

The decision followed a quick breakdown of a second round of last-ditch, top-level talks between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Yohei Kono that took place in the Diet building from 10 A.M.

The initial top-level talks broke down in the early hours of Tuesday after Kono rejected Hosokawa's compromise proposal to increase the number of single-seat constituencies in elections for the proposed 500-seat lower chamber from 250 to 274.

The seven coalition party leaders agreed, however, to Kono's proposal to tone down the proposed curbs on acceptance of corporate donations by individual politicians, the officials said.

The original draft of the political funding bill called for a ban on corporate donations to individual politicians, but allowed such donations to political parties to distribute to their candidates.

The coalition leaders agreed to amend the bills to permit prefectoral and city assembly legislators to receive corporate donations personally from businesses. Because of lack of time in the lower house, the coalition plans to introduce the amendment when the bills are voted on in the House of Councillors, the officials said.

The bills will be forwarded to the coalition-dominated upper chamber for approval after the lower chamber passes the bills, most probably before Hosokawa's departure Friday for the United States to attend a major economic conference, the coalition officials said.

The compromise follows a recent series of scandals in which several heads of prefectoral and city governments have been arrested for allegedly accepting bribes from construction firms. It is not clear whether the amendment would allow prefectoral governors or the mayors of cities to accept corporate donations.

Earlier in the day, Hosokawa told reporters he would push for the committee vote on Tuesday now that the coalition has exhausted all efforts to resolve the standoff through dialogue.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura called on the opposition camp not to boycott the committee session, saying, "I strongly hope the opposition parties will attend, so that final deliberations on the bills may proceed solemnly."

LDP officials earlier said they may boycott the committee vote if the coalition failed to offer substantial compromises to narrow the gulf between the coalition bills and the LDP's alternative bills.

In a related development, five LDP legislators threatened to defy the party leadership by attending the

committee session, saying they do not want to give the public an impression that they are trying to block political reform. The five are Takeo Nishioka, Hidenao Nakagawa, Takashi Sasagawa, Shigeru Ishiba, and Teruhiko Mashiko.

Committee 'Certain' To Pass Bills

OW1611063793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0615 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—A Diet panel will go ahead with its debate on a political reform package Tuesday [16 November] afternoon with the ruling coalition and opposition still at odds over key provisions.

The committee session follows the breakdown of two rounds of top-level talks between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] President Yohei Kono, the first lasting into the early hours of Tuesday and the second being held from 10 A.M.

The House of Representatives Special Committee on Political Reform is to initiate the deliberations at 4 P.M. with its chairman, Hajime Ishii, saying he will call a vote later in the day.

The LDP said it turned down calls from some of its members to boycott the session in protest against what it described as the coalition's insufficient efforts to reach a compromise.

Earlier in the day, Hosokawa told reporters he would push for the committee vote on Tuesday, saying it would correspond with "the rule of democracy" to call a vote now that the coalition has exhausted efforts to resolve the standoff through dialogue.

The LDP said it will cast no votes to the bills. The bills will completely redesign the mechanism for selecting members of the lower chamber of the two-chamber parliament.

The latest coalition proposal—put forward by Hosokawa—calls for replacing the current 511 multiseat electoral districts with a combination of 274 single-seat districts and 226 seats chosen through proportional representation.

The LDP, which has called for 300 districts to have single directly elected seats along with 171 seat decided through proportional representation, has blasted the coalition plan as a ploy to stir further defections of legislators who the LDP said would be forced to renounce their home constituencies.

The coalition said the bills would be instrumental in cleaning up Japan's money-dominated politics.

The package looks certain to be passed by the committee later Tuesday—then through the chamber's plenary session on Thursday—in view of a stable majority of the seven-party coalition, Diet sources said.

The package will go to the House of Councillors for approval after clearing the lower chamber, probably before Hosokawa's departure on Friday to Seattle to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, the coalition officials said.

Bills 'Redesign' Lower House Choice

OW1611081093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0756 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—A key Diet panel will approve a government-proposed political reform package Tuesday [16 November] evening against the background of a continuing squabble between the ruling coalition and the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The House of Representatives Special Committee on Political Reform began deliberations at 4 P.M. with its chairman, Hajime Ishii, saying he will call a vote during the evening.

The call for a vote is expected to come around 6:30 P.M., Diet sources said. Ishii is a key ally of Shinseito co-leader Ichiro Ozawa, a coalition strategist.

The session marks the drawing to a close of five years of efforts to introduce single-seat constituencies or to combine such a system with proportional representation.

The coalition says the package is crucial to ending money scandals involving politicians that dislodged the LDP from government this summer after 38 years in power.

The committee session followed the breakdown of two rounds of top-level talks between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Liberal Democratic Party President Yohei Kono, the first lasting into the early hours of Tuesday and the second being held from 10 A.M.

Both LDP legislators and Japanese Communist Party legislators were present at the panel session despite earlier threats by some of their members to boycott the meeting against what they described as the coalition's insufficient efforts to reach a compromise.

Earlier in the day, Hosokawa told reporters he would push for the committee to vote on Tuesday, saying it would correspond with "the rule of democracy" to call a vote as the coalition had exhausted efforts to resolve the standoff through dialogue.

The LDP said it will vote against the bills.

The bills will completely redesign the mechanism for selecting members of the lower house of the two-chamber parliament.

The latest coalition proposal—put forward by Hosokawa—calls for replacing the current 511 multiseat electoral districts with a combination of 274 single-seat districts and 226 seats chosen through proportional representation.

The LDP, which has called for 300 districts to have single directly elected seats along with 171 seats decided through proportional representation, has blasted the coalition plan as a ploy to stir further defections of legislators who the LDP says would be forced to renounce their home constituencies.

Calculations by political scientists show that the bills would force the party to turn down requests from dozens of its incumbent and former legislators to run in their home constituencies, in which they have spent years cultivating the goodwill of constituents.

The coalition says the bills would help clean up Japan's money-dominated politics by dissuading candidates from the same party from trying to outspend rivals in multiseat constituencies.

The package looks certain to be passed by the committee later Tuesday—then through the chamber's plenary session on Thursday—in view of a stable majority of the seven-party coalition, Diet sources said.

It will go to the House of Councillors for approval after clearing the lower chamber, probably before Hosokawa's departure on Friday for Seattle to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, the coalition officials said.

Kumagai on Panel's Plan for Surplus Cut Target

*OW1611035493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japan's trade minister on Tuesday [16 November] criticized moves by a government advisory group to recommend that Japan set a target for cutting its current account surplus.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai told reporters after a cabinet meeting that it is difficult to set a target for reducing the surplus, which he said involves diverse domestic and international factors and is impossible to control.

The advisory group for economic restructuring, an advisory panel to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, may make the recommendation in its final report to be compiled by the end of the year, panel sources have said.

EPA Chief Seeks Steps To Stimulate Economy

*OW1611020693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0153 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Economic Planning Agency (EPA) Director General Manae Kubota said Tuesday [16 November] the government should take additional measures to shore up the long-suffering economy, in view of the severity of Japan's current slump, the time has come for the government to do more with regard to the economy, Kubota told a press conference after the cabinet meeting.

Kubota said she has asked each cabinet minister earlier in the day to give their utmost attention to possible policies which could help turn the economy around.

Regarding the compilation of next year's national budget, Kubota said it is only natural to place greater emphasis on ways to stimulate the economy. The EPA is prepared to do everything in its power to achieve that aim, although it may be difficult to change the current budget allocation, she said.

Kubota also called for the Advisory Group for Economic Restructuring, an advisory body to the prime minister, to work out possible short-term restructuring measures.

Front-Loading of Public Works Projects Reported

*OW1611044593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Public works projects contracted in the first half of the current fiscal year accounted for 78.1 percent of total national outlays earmarked for the entire year, surpassing the targeted 75 percent, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday [16 November].

The ratio of front-loading to reinvigorate the faltering economy in the April-September period was the second highest since 80.1 percent scored in fiscal 1987 and higher than 77.4 percent in fiscal 1992, the ministry said.

Public contracts concluded during the first half of fiscal 1993 totaled 12,717.4 billion yen against the full year's appropriation of 16,277.3 billion yen. The sum for the first half was up 9.3 percent from a year before and the largest ever.

By ministry, public contracts concluded during the first half came to 78.8 percent for the Construction Ministry, 78.9 percent for the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, 71.4 percent for the Transport Ministry, and 86.4 percent for the Health and Welfare Ministry.

The Finance Ministry also announced that public projects contracted for prefectures during this year's first half represented 78.5 percent of their yearly budgets, up from 77.4 percent a year earlier and above the targeted 75 percent.

The string of bribery scandals involving major general contractors—which has shut out some of them from bidding for certain periods—had no discernible impact on implementation of prefectural projects, Home Affairs Minister Kanju Sato said.

MITI Official Urges Merger Regulations Review

*OW1211112393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT
12 Nov 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—A senior trade ministry official Friday [12 November] called for a review of regulations on corporate mergers to help promote industrial reorganization.

The official, who declined to be named, said the present method of implementing merger rules under the antimonopoly law is questionable. He called on the Fair Trade Commission to review regulations with a view to easing rules for corporate mergers, saying the matter should be considered from a wider perspective by taking into account market situations not only in Japan but other Asian countries.

Under present regulations, the commission closely examines mergers to see if the resulting firm's market share will exceed 25 percent and orders part of operations to be separated in case fair competition is hampered.

The official stressed the need for structural reform of industry in the medium to long term to overcome the recession.

Business Leaders Hope To Reform Regulations

*OW1611065393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0526 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japan's top executives are increasingly unhappy with the bureaucratic controls imposed on their business activities, and believe the strict regulations also make life difficult for consumers, a KYODO NEWS SERVICE survey found Tuesday [16 November].

All 10 corporate managers who were polled called for determined leadership from Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to put into practice his proposed deregulations.

The survey was carried out just days after the Advisory Group for Economic Restructuring, an advisory body to Hosokawa, presented an interim report on how best to revamp the nation's economic and social structures, which are burdened with countless regulations.

Hyozo Yamamoto, president of major contractor Taisei Corp., said, "Japan's legal systems have failed to catch up with the changing needs of the society."

Yoshihiko Miyauchi, president of top leasing firm Orix Corp., also expressed irritation at the "unclear, inefficient regulations imposed by bureaucrats," citing gyosei shido (administrative guidance) as an example of such restrictions. Administrative guidances are not legally binding but are carefully followed by the industry.

In his criticism of one specific government control, Sadao Aoki, chairman of taxi company MK Corp. said, "We are losing customers because we cannot freely cut rates in this recession."

Masao Ogura, chairman of Yamato Transport Co., recalls how the company realized rate cuts for its home delivery services by running newspaper advertisements protesting against government rules.

Kan Yamanaka, president of Tobu Department Store Co., noted that regulations are responsible for keeping Japan's prices high, while Junichiro Tanaka, president of leading realtor Mitsui Fudosan Co., blamed the nation's high land prices on regulations which hamper more liberal property transactions.

They all agreed that scrapping or easing these regulations would create the room for them to reduce prices.

Asked how the planned deregulations could be most effective, Jiro Ushio, chairman of electrical machinery maker Ushio Inc., proposed that the prime minister's panel, headed by Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), act as "gaiatsu," or foreign pressure, for Japan.

He was alluding to the U.S., whose pressure has brought about various reforms to the Japanese economy.

Orix head Miyauchi also suggested the establishment of an independent watchdog for monitoring the regulations.

MK Chairman Aoki proposed that companies and consumers join forces to demand deregulations and to evict politicians who fail to respond to their calls.

North Korea

Commentary Decries U.S.-ROK Military Exercise

*SK1511130693 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 15 Nov 93*

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "The Dangerous Play With Fire"]

[Text] It has been said that the U.S.-South Korean joint military exercise named Foal Eagle-93 will be conducted from 15 November. The war exercise will last for about 10 days throughout South Korea, including Seoul, and around the Military Demarcation Line in the DMZ, and most of the South Korean puppet Army and the South Korea-based U.S. Army will be mobilized for it.

In addition to it, the Hwarang exercise, to which the South Korean puppet Army, its detached homeland reserve forces, public organizations, and civilians are to be mobilized, will be conducted from 15 November in an atmosphere of actual war.

Prior to this, the U.S. aggression forces and the puppet navy mobilized combat ships, transport ships, and landing ships in the East Sea of South Korea in a large scale and conducted a provocative, joint landing exercise against the North while fixing guns and bombs.

It cannot be simply overlooked that at a time when North-South dialogue has been suspended and the situation of the Korean peninsula has extremely been aggravated because of the puppet defense minister's recent bellicose outburst that the South would not hesitate military countermeasures to cope with our nonexistent

nuclear problem, a series of war exercises against the North are being conducted in South Korea.

As everyone knows, it is our invariable position to solve the problem not with arms but through dialogue and negotiations.

Based on this position, we proposed holding working-level contacts for exchanging top-level special envoys to resolve the nuclear issue and other issues pending between the North and South through dialogue and have made every effort to realize this proposal. And, we have sincerely attended the DPRK-U.S. talks to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

In these dialogues and negotiations, we demanded on many occasions that war exercises designed for northward aggression be discontinued. Therefore, if the South Korean authorities and the United States are truly interested in resolving the nuclear issue, they should ponder over the grave impact which war exercises designed for northward aggression will have on the situation on the Korean peninsula.

In fact, the South Korean puppets and the United States have responded to our peace-loving efforts by conducting provocative war exercises. An example of this is that they said that peace can be maintained only with strength, called for assuming a combat posture, accelerated the modernization of war materiel, restructured the military designed to build up the puppet forces and increase their fire power, and deployed the puppet forces close to the Military Demarcation Line.

The war exercise which the South Korean authorities will start with the United States is a deliberate maneuver that will destroy peace and a very dangerous play with fire designed to further bring the situation to the brink of war by putting their reckless remarks—that they do not hesitate to take a military countermeasure—into action.

The war exercise which will be recklessly conducted throughout South Korea again proves that the peaceful solution of the nuclear problem or its solution through dialogue which the South Korean authorities and the United States have talked about are empty rhetoric and that they have no will to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue. The only thing they have is an ambition to stifle [apsal] us by using military threats and by means of war.

Otherwise, why are they building an obstacle to dialogue, conducting one war exercise after another which threatens their dialogue partner, and aggravating tension?

Those who enjoy playing with fire will be burned to death in the fire they make. If the South Korean rulers try to strike their fellow countrymen hand in hand with outside force, this will only hasten their own end.

The South Korean authorities and the United States will be held fully responsible for the irrevocable consequences which will arise from their provocative war exercise designed for northward aggression.

KCNA Cites Papers on Exercise

*SK1611044693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—The United States and the South Korean authorities started Monday large-scale military maneuvers codenamed "Foal Eagle 93" and "Hwarang" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the mobilization of huge Armed Forces enough to launch a war. This comes under fire in papers here today.

In an article titled "Military Adventure Leads to Self-Destruction" a NODONG SINMUN analyst says:

The military exercises now being staged in South Korea are a dangerous war game to render the situation of the Korean peninsula extremely strained and gravely endanger peace.

Ridiculously, those who started the war gamble, motivated by an aggressive design, are now terming it "annual defensive exercises." This is a brazen-faced sophism aimed at veiling their bellicose nature.

It goes without saying that they who are getting frenzied in war exercises in the sky and on the ground and sea by mobilizing even civilians, not to speak of the aggression forces and the puppet Army, may do anything against the DPRK.

We love peace. But we will never pardon those who provoke us.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities forestall us, we will inflict a hundredfold, thousandfold punishment upon them.

We are fully prepared both for war and dialogue.

The warmaniacs would be well advised to act with discretion, clearly mindful that they are not allowed to touch even a blade of grass or a tree in our dignified Republic.

In a commentary titled "provokers will never be pardoned" a MINJU CHOSON analyst says that if the United States and the South Korean authorities intend to frighten the DPRK with adventurous war exercises and, further, fulfill their sinister purpose, it would be a foolish daydream.

KCNA Condemns 'Foal Eagle 93'

*SK1611042593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[("Only Corpses, Deaths on War Fanatics"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets Monday launched the large-scale "Foal Eagle 93" and "Hwarang" war games against the Northern half of Korea at one and the same time by mobilizing huge Armed Forces, according to military sources.

Hurled into the provocative war games staged across South Korea all at once including frontline areas of the Military Demarcation Line were U.S. special warfare units of three services from overseas bases, the U.S. imperialist aggression troops present in South Korea, the puppet Army, police, the "homeland defence reserve force", the "civilian defence corps", etc., more than 4,500,000 men in all, or 1,500,000 more men than last year, and many tanks, artillery pieces, armoured vehicles, aircraft, warships and other latest-type lethal equipment.

No one can guarantee that the war exercises would not go over to a real war.

We do not want war but are never afraid of it.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets must not act rashly, squarely looking at the grave situation now prevailing on the Korean peninsula due to their frantic, powder-reeking war maneuvers.

If they unleash another war defiantly in disregard of our repeated warnings and public opinion at home and abroad, corpses and deaths will be inflicted on the war fanatics.

ROK Students Vow Struggle for Reunification

SK1611105093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004
GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—The Kyonggi Provincial and Inchon District Federation of General Student Councils (Kyonginchongnyon) of South Korea in a recent statement vowed to launch a struggle for national reunification under the banner of great national unity.

The Kyonginchongnyon published the statement in protest against the authorities' refusal to permit a North-South student bicycle race initiated to mark the 64th anniversary of the Kwangju student incident.

The statement said:

"We brand the 'government' authorities' behavior as an apparent anti-national, anti-reunification act and declare a fight for national reunification under the banner of great national unity without compromise even under any physical suppression.

"We also bitterly denounce Japan and the United States for trying to perpetuate the division of our nation, while attaching importance to their national interests only, and declare that we will struggle in defence of the national

sovereignty without any slightest compromise under the banner of national independence."

'Reunification Through Confederation' Urged

SK151115693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042
GMT 15 Nov 93

[“Principle of National Independence Is Invariable Fundamental One for National Reunification”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—The principle of national independence, a fundamental principle of national reunification stemming from the essence and character of the question of national reunification, is based on the inalienable right of self-determination, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article goes on:

The question of national reunification, vital to the fellow countrymen, is, to all intents and purposes, a matter pertaining to our nation's right of self-determination. Therefore, the question of reunification should be solved independently by the internal forces of the Korean people and their will and neither foreign interference nor dependence on outside forces can be allowed.

The principle of national independence is the fundamental one of national reunification as the reunification our nation want is reunification to realize the independence of the nation, not reunification to live, subjected to others.

This is why our people have struggled to defend national dignity and sovereignty against foreign aggression and intervention at all costs after the liberation.

The principle of national independence is the fundamental one of national reunification relying upon the practicable capability of our people and the internal forces of the nation which are able to solve national question by their own efforts and wisdom.

Our nation is a resourceful and courageous homogeneous nation with a long history of 5,000 years with Tangun as its founder and, accordingly, has capability and wisdom enough to settle its national question by its own efforts.

In order to realize national reunification on the principle of national independence, the strength and wisdom of the whole nation should be given full play so that it may discharge its responsibility with the right of masters of reunification. To this end, the whole nation should unite firm, transcending the differences of ideology, ideal and system, under the banner of the idea of national independence for reunification.

The most reasonable and fair way to realize the reunification of the country on the principle of national independence is reunification through confederation.

All the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas should turn out as one to the struggle to establish a pan-national unified state by means of confederacy, placing the common interests of the nation above anything else so as to hasten reunification in the 90s.

Officials Denounce ROK's Minister's Remarks

*SK1511232093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2222
GMT 15 Nov 93*

[“Stand To Answer Dialogue With Dialogue, War With War Fully Supported”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—Figures of various countries denounced the South Korean “defence minister” for claiming a “military countermove”, charging the North with fictitious “nuclear development.”

Zagret Prasad Betwal, a member of parliament and chairman of the Chitwan, Nepal, Committee for Supporting Korea’s Reunification, in a statement on November 6 said the outburst of the South Korean “defence minister” immediately exposes that Kim Yong-sam’s “civilian government” is a belligerent, military fascist “government” which does not want peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula. He expressed full support to the DPRK’s stand to answer dialogue with dialogue, war with war.

He said he fully supports the DPRK’s stand to solve the nuclear problem only through dialogue and negotiation with the United States.

Prof. Lokadi Bongandjo, chairman of the Zairean National Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea, in a statement November 5 denounced the outburst of the South Korean “defence minister” as a dangerous attempt to bring the situation of the Korean peninsula to a brink of war.

He urged that the South Korean authorities should wake from their anachronistic dream and join the DPRK Government in the sincere efforts to reunify the country through dialogue and negotiation.

Saying that the outburst of the South Korean “defence minister” was aimed at creating artificial difficulties in the way of exchange of special envoys between the North and the South and DPRK-U.S. talks, the Nepal-Korea Friendship Association in a statement on November 7 urged the South Korean authorities to promptly refrain from acts of pushing the situation of the Korean peninsula to an extreme pitch of strain and throwing cold water on Korea’s cause of independent, peaceful reunification.

Japan’s 1905 ‘Ulsa Five-Point Treaty’ Criticized

NODONG SINMUN Cited

*SK1411084593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807
GMT 14 Nov 93*

[“Japan Cannot Cover Up Past Crimes”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 14 (KCNA)—Now that the criminal and illegal nature of the Japanese imperialists’ past occupation of Korea has been confirmed indisputably with the discovery of a personal letter of Kojong, the then Korean emperor, declaring the “Ulsa Five-point Treaty” of 1905 null and void in view of the international law, what the Japanese authorities should do now is only to deeply repent of the crime-woven past and honestly liquidate it, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

Recalling that the Japanese prime minister tried to avoid liquidating the past shamelessly with such empty words like “repentance” and “apology” during his recent trip to South Korea, the news analyst says:

The unheard-of crimes and colossal damages done to the Korean people by the Japanese imperialists in the past after their illegal occupation of Korea can neither be atoned for with any apology nor be covered fully with any compensations. A mere empty word of “apology” can never cover such hideous crimes.

The Japanese authorities think their past crimes have been settled with some money given to South Korea under the “South Korea-Japan treaty on basic relations” and “agreement on the settlement of property claim with Japan and economic cooperation” they signed with the South Korean authorities in 1965. This, however, only reveals their shamelessness.

The “Ulsa Five-point Treaty” having been proved to be invalid, the “South Korea-Japan treaty on basic relations” and “South Korea-Japan agreement” are good-for-nothing things which cannot be justified under the international law. It is absurd to argue that the past crimes have been settled on the basis of such empty sheets of paper.

The Japanese authorities are trying by hook or by crook to avoid liquidating the past by setting in-motion even the South Korean rulers subservient to them, but that is of no avail. Japan can never evade its responsibility for liquidating the past.

The Japanese authorities must act with discretion, clearly mindful that no good results will await them if they persist in their reckless anti-DPRK campaign maliciously, trying to avoid liquidating the past on any account.

Organizations Denounce Treaty

SK151115493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035
GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—The chairmen of Working People's Organizations of Korea released statements on November 14 as regards the discovery of a personal letter of Emperor Kojong which declared the "Ulsa (1905) Five-point Treaty" null and void in view of international law.

Chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions, Chu Song-il, said that since the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty" has been proved illegal and invalid, being a false document faked up by the Japanese imperialists, the Japanese Government must make an official apology for the crimes committed by them in the past against the Korean people after illegally occupying Korea and compensate for the losses.

He said:

"Now the Japanese authorities, refusing to admit the illegality of the 'treaty,' are scheming to hush up the liquidation of the crime-woven past with such empty words as 'repentance' and 'apology.' This is a mockery of our working class and other Korean people."

Chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, Choe Yong-hae, said that the Japanese imperialists occupied Korea by faking up the false document "Ulsa Five-point Treaty", and took young Korean people to the war of aggression on the continent in which many of them died tragic death.

"Our young people will surely make Japan pay dearly for their crimes," he noted, and stressed:

"The South Korean authorities must discard their humiliating attitude toward Japan, promptly stop the anti-DPRK campaign they are carrying on in league with outside forces and demand the nullification of the illegal 'South Korea-Japan agreement' and the Japanese authorities must make an understandable apology and compensation for Japan's past crimes."

Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, said the Japanese authorities would be well advised to properly liquidate the past and immediately give up the design to become a military power armed with nuclear weapons before charging the DPRK with the "nuclear problem" and seeking a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Religious Leaders Quoted

SK1611105293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019
GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—Chairmen of religious organizations of Korea released statements Monday as regards the discovery of a personal letter of Emperor Kojong, dated June 22, 1906, which declared

the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty" faked up by the Japanese imperialists in 1905 null and void in view of international law.

The chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Christian Federation, Kang Yong-sop, said that such international swindle of the Japanese imperialists as enforcing a truculent colonial rule over Korea for more than 40 years by faking up the illegal, false "treaty" was an unheard-of one.

"Since the South Korea-Japan treaty on basic relations" was cooked up between Japan and the South Korean rulers in 1965 on the basis of the recognition of the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty," it is completely invalid, he said, and went on:

"Japan is now covering up the disgraceful history and impudently seeking a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, instead of honestly apologizing and compensating for the monstrous crimes against the Korean people. This is a mockery of and insult to world justice and conscience."

The chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics Association, Chang Chae-chol, said that with the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty" proved null and void after the discovery of Kojong's personal letter, it has become an immediate common task of the nation to make Japan properly liquidate the history of crimes perpetrated by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people in the past.

He called on the Roman Catholics and all other Koreans in the North, South and overseas to closely unite with each other and actively turn out in the struggle for smashing the despicable flunkeyist and traitorous acts of the South Korean authorities and obtaining from Japan a proper apology and compensation.

Pak Tae-ho, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Buddhist Federation, stressed that Japan must make an understandable apology and compensation for the crimes and losses it inflicted upon the Korean people in the past.

"If Japan avoid the liquidation of the past and intend to force something upon the Korean people again, it will have to pay dearly for that," he declared.

Vice Premier Meets Chinese Amity Delegation

SK1511122893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1110
GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Kim Pok-sin met and had a friendly talk at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today with the delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the China-Korea Friendship Association headed by Sun Ying, vice-chairman of the Gansu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Present on the occasion was Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and vice-chairperson of the Central Committee of the Korea-China Friendship Association.

Noting that the Korean people have made a leaping progress in all fields including politics, the economy and culture in a short period, the head of the delegation said all the successes are results of the wise guidance of the great leader of the Korean people comrade President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who are working devotedly for the people.

Sun Ying said the Chinese people would further strengthen and develop in the future, too, the Sino-Korean friendship provided by Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and comrade President Kim Il-song.

Delegation Visits Mangyongdae

SK1611142993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the China-Korea Friendship Association headed by Sun Ying, vice-chairman of the Gansu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, has visited Mangyongdae.

The guests visiting the old house of Mangyongdae, where the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was born, spent his childhood, and entertained a great ambition for the revolution, listened to the immortal stories on this historic house and carefully saw the well-preserved historic relics.

After taking pictures in commemoration of the visit to the old house of Mangyongdae, the guests saw the revolutionary, historic relics at Mangyong Peak.

The delegation also visited the Chuche Tower, the Arch of Triumph, the Mt. Taesong Revolutionary Martyrs Mausoleum, the Hall of the Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, the Friendship Tower, and various other places in Pyongyang and surrounding areas.

The head of the delegation said that the Korean people, with high enthusiasm and the spirit of self-reliance, built a devastated Pyongyang into a world-class city and that we could witness Korea's appearance—which is rapidly changing—during our visit.

PRC Political Consultative Delegation Departs

SK1611074393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] A delegation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference led by Hong Xuezhi, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, left Pyongyang by train on 13 November.

The delegation was seen off at Pyongyang Station by functionaries concerned including Chong Tu-hwan, presidium member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of Fatherland, and Qiao Zonghuai, PRC ambassador to our country.

Cuban Women's Delegation Leaves Pyongyang

SK1611074293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] A Cuban women's delegation led by Vilma Espin Guillois, chairperson of the Cuban Women's Federation, left Pyongyang by plane on 13 November.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Kim Song-ae, chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union; functionaries concerned including Secretary Kang Kwan-son; and Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to our country.

Vice Premier Meets Austrian Business Delegation

SK1511055593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon on November 14 met and had a conversation with the delegation of the Nordex Co. of Austria headed by its Director Georgy Rutschanski at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

On hand was Kim Chong-u, chairman of the Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation.

Government Economic Delegation Leaves for Libya

SK1611104593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—A Korean Government economic delegation headed by Yi Song-tae, chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission, left here Monday to participate in the 10th meeting of the Joint Committee between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

It was seen off at the airport by Hong Hak-su, vice-chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Syrian President

SK1511102993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings today to Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the corrective movement in Syria.

In the message President Kim Il-song says that the Syrian Arab people, after the corrective movement, have made a big progress in the struggle to defend national dignity and build an independent new society under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party headed by Hafiz al-Asad.

He sincerely wishes the Syrian president and people greater success in the struggle for the prosperity of the country and a fair and comprehensive settlement of the Mideast issue and expresses the belief that the bonds of friendship, unity and cooperation between the two peoples will grow stronger and develop.

Papers Dedicate Articles to Movement in Syria

*SK161110293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[“23rd Anniversary of Corrective Movement in Syria”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate by-lined articles to the 23rd anniversary of the corrective movement in Syria.

The article of MINJU CHOSON says the corrective movement in Syria on November 16, 1970, was an epochal occasion which opened bright prospects for the people of this country in building an independent and prosperous new Syria.

The article goes on:

Since the corrective movement the Syrian people have made great successes in the struggle to defend the independence and sovereignty of the country, achieve national unity and build a prosperous new society.

Today the Syrian people are striving for “unity, freedom and socialism” under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party headed by President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice over the achievements of the Syrian people in the efforts to strengthen the independent economy and defend the national dignity, and congratulate them.

Korea and Syria, both Asian countries, have close bonds of friendship.

Believing that the relations between the peoples of Korea and Syria will grow stronger and develop in keeping with their desire and aspirations, the Korean people wish the Syrian people greater success in the struggle to retake the occupied Arab land and solve the Middle East issue in a fair and comprehensive way.

Anniversary of Palestinian Proclamation Marked

*SK151115093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028
GMT 15 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today observes the 5th anniversary of the proclamation of the State of Palestine.

A signed article of the paper says that the proclamation of the State of Palestine on November 15, 1988 was an important occasion which gave impetus to the struggle of the Palestinian people for the liberation and freedom of the country.

It goes on:

The Palestine question constitutes the kernel of the Mideast problem and its solution is a key to Mideast peace. The declaration on autonomy of Palestinians was signed between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel for the first time in history in September last, the keynote of which is to give interim autonomy to Gaza Strip and Jericho areas, part of the Israel-held Palestinian territory.

The international community hopes that it will be implemented so successfully that a favourable phase may be opened to bring Mideast peace.

The Korean people have actively supported and encouraged the struggle of the Palestinian people. Our people's solidarity with them will remain unchanged in the future, too.

Zimbabwe Patriotic Front Delegation Arrives

*SK1611151493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1459
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front headed by Stephen Nkomo, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of its Central Committee, arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Foreign Minister Greets New Malian Counterpart

*SK16111044093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0411
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Ibrahim Boubacar Keita upon his appointment as minister of foreign affairs, Malians abroad and African integration of Mali.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would continue to develop, the message wished him success in his work.

WPK Replies to Foreign Parties' Greetings
*SK1511054693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501
GMT 15 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—The Central Committee [CC] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent messages to general secretary of the CC, Syrian Communist Party Youssef Faisal; the Central Committees of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus and the Jordanian Communist Party; General Secretary of the CC, Nepal Communist Party (UML) Madhav Kumar Nepal; the Central Committees of the People's Party of Cambodia and the Mozambique Liberation Front Party; the Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress of Guyana; Secretary General of the Barbados Workers' Party George Belle; the Central Committees of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil; and the Communist Party of Uruguay; General Secretary of the CC, Socialist Party of Australia Peter Symon; General Secretary of the CC, Communist Party of Malta Vassalo Anthony; National Chairman of the Workers' Party of Switzerland Jean Spielmann; General Secretary of the CC, New Communist Party of Great Britain Eric Trevett; the Federal Committee of the Communist Party of Spain; and General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain Juan Ramos in reply to their greetings on the occasion of the 48th foundations anniversary of the party.

In the messages it expressed thanks to them for the congratulations on the 48th WPK birthday.

It also expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the WPK and the abovesaid parties would develop on good terms.

Besides, the WPK Central Committee sent a reply message to 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy general secretary of the [word indistinct] Socialist Ba'th Party of Syria.

WPK Sends Message to Greek Communist Party
*SK1511122793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057
GMT 15 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea today sent a message of greetings to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece on the occasion of the 75th founding anniversary of the party.

Noting that over the past 75 years the Communist Party of Greece has made strenuous efforts to defend the democratic rights and vital interests of the working masses and ensure peace and security in the world, the message expresses solidarity for the cause of justice of the party which is striving to strengthen and develop itself, defending the socialist principle.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties would further expand and develop in accordance with the common ideal for

socialism in the future, the message wishes the Communist Party of Greece success in its activities.

Portuguese Party Leader Supports Reunification
*SK1611104893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—The just cause of the Korean people for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the building of socialism will certainly win victory, said Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Direction Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal, when he met with the Korean ambassador some time ago.

The imperialists and reactionaries now are resorting to all machinations to stifle the DPRK, but the Korean people are not alone and the progressive forces of the world stand behind their just cause, he noted.

He said it is the great happiness of the Korean people to have dear His Excellency Kim Chong-il successfully carrying forward the cause of the great His Excellency President Kim Il-song.

The cause of the great His Excellency President Kim Il-song will certainly win under the guidance of dear His Excellency Kim Chong-il, he stressed.

Bulgarian Article on Chuche Idea Quoted
*SK1611110493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[“It Is the Chuche Idea Only That Can Save Us”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—The Bulgarian paper DUMA Nov. 1 carried an article by journalist Goran Gotev under the headline “It is the Chuche Idea Only That Can Save Us”.

The article said:

The great leader President Kim Il-song founded the chuche idea that one is the master of one's own destiny and can hew out one's destiny by one's own efforts.

I thought of the chuche idea when UN Secretary General Ghali said some time ago that the United Nations was not in a position to keep peace in any place of the globe and that was illustrated by the situation in Somalia and Bosnia.

German Chancellor Kohl said he did not want Eastern European countries to enter the EC.

The Eastern European countries will not be able to enter it even after 2500. Their admission into “NATO” will also be banned.

Yeltsin of Russia, too, said he did not want former Eastern European socialist countries to join “NATO”.

The state of affairs is the same in Baltic States and Hungary, Czech, Slovakia and Poland which are allegedly granted special favors by the West.

The West has instigated revolts and demonstrations in these countries for scores of years, but given no help.

Immediately after Gorbachev pulled down the Berlin Wall the West drew the "Iron Curtain".

The "benefactors" of the West have driven us to the road of complete corruption, collapse and self-destruction under the signboard of "Man and Value, Freedom of Thought."

The sanctions on former Yugoslavia will be imposed upon all of us, too, in future.

The situation in Bosnia and former Yugoslavia gives us the knowledge that Clinton or "NATO" cannot help us even if we depend on outside forces.

After all, the only way out is to follow the chuche idea.

Kim Chong-il Extends Thanks to Various People

*SK1611045293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to the lottery office of the Sariwon Stadium, the 13th neighbourhood unit of Tonghung-tong, central district, Pyongyang; and Kim Son-il, a worker of the Changgwang health complex, and his family; No Chae-kwan, an instructor of the South Hamgyong provincial general branch of the Korean Central Bank, and his family; and Yun Myong-hui, an instructor of a housewives' production cooperative in Sunan district, Pyongyang, who had done good things for the society and collective.

His thanks also went to Choe Chong-sun, a conductor of the Pyongyang Youth Passenger Trainmen Corps; and Yi Yong-chil, a soldier of the Korean People's Army; Chang Chong-ok, a conductor of the Pyongyang Passenger Train Corps of the Ministry of Railways; Yi Nung-il, a researcher of the Organic Chemistry Institute; and Han Song-chol, an assistant of the Methanol Institute, of the Hamhung branch of the Academy of Sciences; Kim Song-chin, a worker of the Hamhung railway disabled officials' factory; and 20 odd families including those of Kim Chun-hui, a worker of the Kowon coal mine; and Kim Chong-uk, a worker of the Undok small-scale fishery station, and his wife Im Pok-kum who had displayed beautiful communist traits.

Trade Union Committee Holds Plenum 15 Nov

*SK1611105493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—The 26th plenary meeting of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea [GFTUK] was held here Monday.

Present at the meeting were secretary of the C.C., Workers' Party of Korea Kim Chung-nin, and members and alternate members of the C.C., GFTUK and chairmen of provincial, city and county GFTUK committees and committees organized at major industrial establishments.

The meeting discussed tasks of the trade organizations in further strengthening the singlehearted unity of the whole society behind the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It was stressed at the meeting that further strengthening the singlehearted unity of the whole party and society around the dear leader is a decisive guarantee for defending the socialist cause, the revolutionary cause of chuche and carrying it to accomplishment.

Noting that the might of socialism is immediately the might of singlehearted unity and its invincibility also lies in singlehearted unity, the speakers at the meeting stressed the need for all the trade union members to uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and actively defend him on the basis of their revolutionary faith and sense of obligations.

Electors Hold Meetings To Nominate Candidates

*SK1511082793 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 12 Nov 93*

[Text] Meetings of electors of constituencies for the election of deputies to the DPRK provincial and municipal People's Assemblies are being held across the country. The places of the electors' meetings of each constituency are brimming over with the citizens' political desire for further strengthening our revolutionary regime and defending and glorifying the socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses, by nominating the people's loyal servants as the candidates for the deputies to the provincial and municipal People's Assemblies.

Erected in the forefront of the meeting places were the portraits of Comrade Kim Il-song, founder and leader of the chuche-oriented revolutionary regime and the great leader of our party and people, and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Also erected in the meeting places were slogans reading: "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song" and "Long live the glorious Workers Party of Korea [WPK]."

Seen in the meeting places were posters and slogans reading: "21 November is the day for the election of the deputies to the provincial and municipal People's Assemblies," "Let us all participate in the election," "Let us strongly consolidate as firm as a rock the revolutionary sovereignty of workers, peasants, soldiers, and working intellectuals," and "Let us fully demonstrate our people's single-hearted might through the election."

The meetings were attended by responsible functionaries of the party, administrative and economic organizations, and working people's organizations; chairmen of election committees; and electors. The meetings were begun with the playing of the song of General Kim Il-song and the song of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Reports were made at the meetings. Those who made reports said that the election of deputies to the people's sovereign organization not only is an honorable task for our people to exercise the right as the masters of the country and enjoy the valuable political right of the citizens, but also is an important political event to consolidate as firm as rock their revolutionary sovereignty. They noted that the election of deputies to the provincial and municipal People's Assemblies have great meanings to demonstrate the single-hearted might of the socialism of our own style, further strengthen our people's regime, and give confidence and courage in victory to the world's progressive people.

Those who made reports said that our people's regime is the one with the deep-rooted and indefatigable revolutionary tradition and the chuche-oriented people's regime. They stressed that because the great leader found a new-type genuine people's regime, our people have become the genuine masters of society and state; become powerful and dignified people; and have a strong weapon with which to complete the socialist cause to the end.

After mentioning that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has strengthened and developed our people's regime to be a militant and vital revolutionary weapon, they pointed out because the functions and roles of the people's regime have been enhanced under the dear leader comrade's wise leadership, our country has been demonstrated as the dignified and independent country with the most advanced socialist system, firm self-reliant national economy, and brilliant national culture.

They wholeheartedly extended the greatest honor and thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who regained the lost fatherland for our people, founded the genuine people's regime, and have given our people the rewards and happiness of living in socialist society.

They said that we are assigned the sacred tasks of frustrating the antisocialist maneuvers by the imperialists and reactionaries, advancing the socialist cause, and expediting the historic cause of national reunification.

They said that all citizens should constantly strengthen the people's regime; enhance its functions and roles; give a new impetus to the struggle to create an all-out march speed for the socialism of our own style; and further glorify the chuche-oriented socialism, our living and lifeline.

They stressed that all, with high loyalty and revolutionary enthusiasm to the party and the leader, should participate in the election to further consolidate the

revolutionary regime—powerful weapon for our revolution and construction and banner of our people's freedom and happiness. They said that they should unanimously vote in favor of the election, thereby demonstrating to the entire world the socialism of our own style in which the leader, the party, and the masses are single-heartedly united.

At meetings, chairmen of the constituency election committees explained the detailed rules of the deputy election law of the DPRK People's Assemblies at every level. The quality of deputy candidates nominated by electors, parties, and social organizations were deliberated at the meetings.

Those who participated in discussions expressed the conviction that if workers, peasants, soldiers, working intellectuals—who have fulfilled loyalty and filial duty to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and who have devotedly worked for the fatherland and our revolutionary regime—are elected deputies to the provincial and municipal People's Assemblies, they will further strengthen and develop our people's regime by fulfilling their duties as representatives of the people. They expressed their full support to the nominated candidates.

With the firm loyalty to the party and the leader and with the single mind to consolidate the revolutionary regime, they expressed their firm resolution to once again demonstrate the invincible might of the socialism of our own style centered on popular masses, by participating in the election and voting in favor of the election.

The decision to register nominated candidates for the deputies to the provincial and municipal People's Assemblies was made at the meetings.

Photo Exhibit Marks Journalists Union Forum

SK1611042693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415
GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—A photo exhibition opened at the People's Palace of Culture Monday to commemorate the Seventh Conference of the Korean Journalists Union.

On show at the exhibition are 125 pictures showing the proud achievements made in carrying out the party's media policy.

Pictures of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il giving on-the-spot guidance to press organs including the NODONG SINMUN office and photos showing his works and autographic letters are displayed there.

The exhibits vividly show the exploits of leadership of the party which has strengthened and developed the press media into its powerful ideological weapon truly contributing to the cause of socialism and reared journalists and editors into media workers of chuche type unfailingly loyal to the party and the leader.

Also on show are pictures which made a great contribution to firmly arming the people with the chuche idea of the party, closely rallying them behind the party and thereby strengthening the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

Innovations in Land, Marine Transport Noted

*SK1511120193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045
GMT 15 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—Working people in the domain of land and marine transport in Korea are greeting their holiday (Nov. 16) with innovations in transport.

Truck drivers under the general bureau of land transport during the first ten months of this year carried over 73,000 more tons of freight than in the like period last year and are overfulfilling their daily plan by more than 4 percent this month.

The South Hwanghae, Kangwon and Yanggang Provincial Transport Administrations have carried out their October assignments respectively at 110.7, 108.6 and 107.5 percent. They are transporting a larger amount of goods than planned these days.

Innovations are also reported in marine transport.

The general bureau of marine transport carried above 236,000 more tons of freight during the ten months of this year than in the corresponding period last year. Entering this month, it is fulfilling average daily plan at 105 percent.

The general bureau of transport on the Taedonggang and other rivers under the Ministry of Marine Transport also is registering successes in freight conveyance by scrupulously organizing and directing transport.

The daily passage of freight at Wonsan Port these days is being carried out at 130 percent.

Granaries 'Overflowing' With 'Rare Rich Crops'

*SK1511120793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048
GMT 15 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—The granaries are overflowing with grain in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which has gathered in rare rich crops.

Thrashing is near completion on cooperative farms across the country and the threshed grain far surpasses the estimation.

More than 700 grain storages have been built. Sukchon, Mundok and Pyongwon Counties in the Yoldusamcholli Plain, a breadbasket on the west coast, respectively topped the estimation 17,000-19,000 tons.

Cooperative farms in Chongdan, Paechon and Yonan Counties, South Hwanghae Province, Kumchon County,

North Hwanghae Province, and Kwaksan County, North Pyongan Province, produced over one more ton of grain from each hectare above the estimation on the average.

Account Settlement Meetings Held

*SK1611105193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008
GMT 16 Nov 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—Year-end account settlement and income distribution took place Monday at the Okto cooperative farm in Yonggang County, Nampo Municipality, a plain area on the west coast, while rural communities of Korea were overflowing with joy at rich harvest.

At the meeting place labour hero Yim Ki-hwan, chairman of the management board of the farm, said with pride that the farm reaped an unusual bumper harvest this year.

The farm produced 8,117 kilograms of rice and 10,607 kilograms of maize from each hectare on an average, thus harvesting above 1,000 more tons of grain than last year.

The farm had been visited by the great leader President Kim Il-song on 20 odd occasions.

Visiting Okto-ri in April, 1947, the great leader opened a bright prospect for turning this place into a modern socialist rural village good to live and work in. Giving on-the-spot guidance to the farm in March last year, he indicated in detail the way to do farming well and saw to it that many farm machines and materials were sent to it.

The farmers there have done all farm work well as required by the chuche method of farming with a resolve to greet with bumper harvest this year, a meaningful year in which fell the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war.

Daily Says Socio-Political Foundation 'Solid'

*SK1511122193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055
GMT 15 Nov 93*

[“People's Government of Korea Is Invincible Socialist Government, NODONG SINMUN”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today stresses that the socio-political foundation of our people's government is solid and serves as a firm guarantee for consolidating the Korean-style socialist system centered on the people and accomplishing the socialist cause of chuche.

The paper says in a by-lined article:

Our people's government has a most solid and broad socio-political foundation because the type of government has been chosen in a unique way as required by the times and the developing revolution and it has been strengthened constantly by the singleheartedly united force of the entire people.

During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the great leader President Kim Il-song laid down the chuche-based line of building a people's government based on the worker-peasant alliance led by the working class and dependent on the united front of broad segments of people after scientifically analysing the requirement of the times, the duty of our revolution and the social and class relations in the country, and established the people's revolutionary government in guerrilla bases—liberated areas, thus creating the prototype of people's government.

The validity and vitality of this line have been fully proved in guerrilla bases in the 1930s. Our people's government which inherited this tradition grew in strength into a powerful political weapon to realise the independence of the popular masses and a genuine socialist government with the widest socio-political foundation through the practice of the democratic revolution and socialist revolution after the liberation of the country.

With the people's government as a weapon, our people carried out two stages of social revolution and built the socialist system and have been united firmly in one mind and purpose in the course of accomplishing the revolutionary cause of chuche.

The decisive factor of the consolidation of the socio-political foundation of our people's government into a singleheartedly united force of the entire people is the wise guidance of our party which has fundamentally changed the ideological and moral traits of all members of society.

The programme of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea put up by our party was a historical event which brought about a radical turn in consolidating the socio-political foundation of the people's government.

South Korea

DPRK, U.S. Expected To Meet 'This Week'

SK1611024093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—North Korea and the United States are expected to meet this week for their sixth contact in New York to discuss nuclear issues, a government source said Tuesday [16 November]. The official, stressing that no date has been set, said North Korea would be pressed to meet with the United States before the nuclear issue surfaces at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial and summit conferences later this week.

South Korean President Kim Yong-sam leaves Wednesday for APEC, where he will meet Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, and then heads for Washington for a summit with President Bill Clinton at the White House on Nov. 23. Both of these summits are certain to deal intensively with North Korea's nuclear situation.

This source analyzed that North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu's proposal for a "package deal" was aimed at softening the international move for more stringent measures before holding further talks with the United States.

The last Pyongyang-Washington contact, on Nov. 9, was at North Korea's request.

IAEA To Discuss DPRK Nuclear Issue 2-3 Dec

SK1611013793 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
16 Nov 93 p 2

[REUTER/YONHAP report from Vienna]

[Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will hold a quorum of the Board of Governors on 2 and 3 December and discuss North Korea's nuclear issue, IAEA officials revealed on 15 November.

The IAEA officials confirmed North Korea's message sent last week in which it solicited IAEA technicians to visit North Korea. North Korea, in the message, said that North Korea is ready to accept an IAEA inspection team if inspectors visit North Korea to exchange film and cameras installed for the surveillance of nuclear facilities, the IAEA officials said. They added that North Korea, however, informed the IAEA of its stance that it will not agree to overall nuclear inspections.

President Orders Ministry To Handle DPRK Issue

SK1611014893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam gave orders Tuesday for all government negotiations and announcements on the North Korean nuclear issue to be controlled by the Foreign Ministry and said he will soon appoint an ambassador to be in charge. The president was embarrassed last week when Agency for National Security Planning Chief Kim Tok told the press that the government wanted a "package" solution of the North Korean nuclear problem. The very next day, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu reversed what Kim had said, saying it was not the proper stage to consider such a solution.

President Kim gave the instructions during a breakfast meeting with the cabinet.

The envoy, likely to be named late Tuesday or Wednesday, will be one of the ambassadors-at-large. He will attend International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meetings and ensure unity and consistency in the government's nuclear policy, aides said. His role will be separate from that of the Seoul-side chairman of the inter-Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission, they said.

'Nuclear Ambassador' Appointed

SK1611081393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry appointed Kim Sam-hun, special assistant to the foreign minister, nuclear ambassador Tuesday to be in charge of negotiations with neighbor allies on the North Korean nuclear issue. The appointment was ordered by President Kim Yong-sam when he instructed the Cabinet in the morning to unify all negotiations and announcements on the issue under the Foreign Ministry.

Kim, 49, a native of Kochang, South Kyongsang Province, majored in law at Seoul National University. He joined the foreign service in 1968 and is one of those rare diplomats who have served in both economic and political posts at foreign missions. His overseas assignments include first secretary and counsellor to the Korean Embassy in Washington and counsellor to Riyadh. His latest post was deputy chief of mission to Geneva. He returned to headquarters as a special assistant in August.

The appointment is partly in preparation for the replacement of Assistant Foreign Minister Sin Ki-pok, who will be appointed to an overseas mission in the next reshuffle, according to Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong. He said the regular task force of the minister, vice minister and assistant minister will remain intact, and that Kim will be in charge of negotiations with involved parties such as China, Japan, the United States and the United Nations.

Kim, nicknamed "bulldog," is a career diplomat known for his aggressiveness. He is not shy about showing off and is a demanding superior.

Defense Minister on North's 'War Preparations'

SK1611022593 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
16 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] On 15 November, Kwon Yong-hae, minister of national defense, revealed that North Korea had completed war preparations by 27 July. In a statement explaining the draft of the national defense budget at the National Assembly Defense Committee, Minister Kwon said that "North Korea has designated 1993 as 'the year for completion of war preparations' and 1995 as 'the year of reunification,' and thus intensively deployed troops and equipment in areas near the Demilitarized Zone."

NAEWOE Says North's Workers Trade for Food

SK1511021993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—Hungry factory workers in North Korea are visiting the countryside to barter soap, toothpaste, pots and pans for food because of severe shortages in the cities.

They visit rural areas laden with plastic or aluminum containers, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and exchange them for rice or corn to stave off famine, the NAEWOE press, Seoul's official North-Korea watcher, said Monday.

NAEWOE quoted members of Chochongnyon, the pro-Pyongyang Association of Korean Nationals in Japan, who have recently been to North Korea, as saying that this practice is particularly prevalent in Hamhung, one of the country's biggest industrial cities, as rice rations have not arrived for two to three months because of transportation difficulties.

About 90 percent of the passengers on trains between Hamhung and Sariwon, the granary of North Korea, are factory workers from Hamhung bartering goods for food, NAEWOE said.

They take four or five days off from their factories, which gladly issue travel permits because shortages of raw materials mean there is no work and because there is no other way to solve the food shortage.

President To Depart 17 Nov for APEC Meeting

SK1511033293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam leaves for the United States on Wednesday to attend the first Asia-Pacific leaders' summit and to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House. Chongwadae [presidential offices] announced Monday.

In what will be his first overseas trip since taking office in February, Kim will meet heads of state from China, Australia, Canada, and Indonesia during the two-day summit Nov. 19-20 among 15 members of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

The APEC summit opens on Blake Island off Seattle to discuss a vision of the 21st century and what tools they have in realizing this vision.

Kim is expected to propose specific ways for regional free trade and describe how he sees future Asia-Pacific cooperation based on a market economy and free trade at the APEC leaders' meeting.

He then heads for Washington for a summit with Clinton in an official visit, their second meeting this year.

This summit, slated for Nov. 23 in the White House, coincides with mounting pressure on the international community to solve North Korea's nuclear problem and the two leaders are expected to confirm their close cooperation on the matter.

Kim and Clinton will also address changing South Korea-U.S. security relations, improved economic cooperation, multilateral security dialogue in the Asia-Pacific and other regional issues.

He receives an honorary doctorate from the American University in Washington, D.C., and the Averell Harriman Democracy Award from the National Democratic Institute of the U.S. Democratic Party.

The president precedes his APEC meeting with a visit to Los Angeles, an area of violent riots in which Koreans were the biggest victims.

He will return to Seoul Nov. 25.

President's U.S. Schedule Outlined

*SK1511052493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0455 GMT
15 Nov 93*

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam's first trip abroad, starting Wednesday, takes him to the two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Seattle from Friday and a one-to-one with U.S. President Bill Clinton on Nov. 23.

Before he returns home on Nov. 25, Kim will have separately met with the leaders of China, Australia, Canada and Indonesia, and attended more than 30 big and small events.

Inside sources say that Chongwadae (presidential office) and the Foreign Ministry had wanted to extend Kim's stay in America as nine days made for a schedule that seemed too tight, but that the president insisted on sticking with the shorter trip to "save" as much of the taxpayers' money as possible.

The highlights of Kim's trip are the APEC summit in Seattle and Seoul-Washington summit in the U.S. capital.

Kim and Chinese President Jiang Zemin competed over who makes the first keynote speech at the APEC summit, and Kim won because of the diplomatic efforts of Seoul and thoughtfulness of Washington, presidential aides say.

Kim's speech on the "opening of a new Pacific era" will last about four minutes.

He will make several other important speeches, including one on "Korea's reform policy and internationalization" to APEC at the request of the participating heads of state, who show particular interest in Kim's reform drive, the aides say.

Kim receives an honorary doctorate from the American University in Washington, D.C., which marks its 100th anniversary this year. Clinton received a doctorate in February, but the Korean president is the first foreign leader to receive an honorary doctorate from the university, the aides say.

Kim has another award in stock for him. He is the foreign candidate for the Averell Harriman Democracy Award, annually bestowed on one foreign and one American figure who have made a contribution to democracy

and human rights by the National Democratic Institute, run by the Democratic Party.

He was asked to make a speech on Capitol Hill, but couldn't as he arrives in Washington on Nov. 21 and U.S. Congress closes its term the following day, the aides say.

He will instead meet with Senate and House leaders for a lunch hosted by Thomas Foley, speaker of the House of Representatives.

Senate and House leaders are said to have made Kim an exception as they rarely attend the same occasion. Senior Secretary for Foreign and National Security Chong Chong-uk says.

Clinton has never hosted a state banquet for a foreign leader, but is said to be paying extra attention to the one organized for Kim.

Invitations went out to more than 120 guests for the dinner at the White House, and the Korean president is said to be in for a special performance.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and Kim will visit his tomb at the Arlington National Cemetery.

Interviewed Prior To Departure

SK1611012793 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Nov 93 pp 2, 7

[Article by Sam Jameson]

[Text] Seoul—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam has declared that under no circumstance will his nation try to develop a nuclear arsenal of its own. But if communist North Korea succeeds in building nuclear weapons, Kim said he fears that Japan might be induced to follow suit, setting off a "chain reaction (that) would create an enormously tragic situation."

The statements, made in a 75-minute interview with the LOS ANGELES TIMES, were the first such declarations by a South Korean president.

Preparing for a Nov. 17-24 visit to the United States that will take him to Los Angeles, Seattle and Washington, Kim also said he hopes that South Korea's military alliance with the United States and the stationing of U.S. troops on the Korean peninsula will continue, even after eventual unification of the communist North and the capitalist South.

The 65-year-old former opposition leader—his country's first civilian leader since 1961—said he has "no reservation about the American handling" of attempts to persuade North Korea to halt its suspected development of nuclear weapons.

He expressed support for President Clinton's threat last July to "annihilate" North Korea if it ever used a nuclear weapon—and added a threat of his own: "If North Korea

insists on developing nuclear weapons, it will only mean its own self-destruction." But he also expressed confidence that the communist government of President Kim Il-song, 81, will eventually bend to what he called unanimous world opinion opposing North Korea's nuclear development. "It's just a matter of time," he said.

Asked if he fears that Japan might follow suit if North Korea builds its own nuclear arsenal, he replied: "I think there is a possibility, yes. Because of the possibility that Japan might be stimulated to going nuclear, I think we should stop North Korea from developing its own nuclear weapons. The possible chain reaction would create an enormously tragic situation."

Kim made the statement only four days after meeting Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in a summit that was described as heralding a "new era" in South Korea-Japan relations. Many South Koreans share Kim's worry about Japan following North Korea in going nuclear, but no South Korean leader has stated it openly before.

Asked if he could "categorically rule out that under no circumstance will South Korea in the future develop its own nuclear weapons," Kim replied: "Absolutely. That would disrupt peace in Northeast Asia and peace in the world at large. Peace is the most important issue. The very reason we are trying to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons is to maintain peace."

In the late 1970s under the late President Pak Chong-hui, South Korea secretly set out to develop its own nuclear weapons at a time when there was no fear of a North Korean nuclear threat. Those moves were squashed behind the scenes by the United States, whose commitment to South Korea was not solid enough to suit Pak, a former general.

By contrast, Clinton just last Sunday declared that the United States would consider an attack on South Korea to be an attack on America itself because of the approximately 36,000 U.S. troops stationed here.

Tight Security During Absence

*SK1611030093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Tuesday the Armed Forces should maintain watertight defense and security, and the police should strictly uphold law and order for the sake of the people while he is away. President Kim told Prime Minister Hwang In-song and all other cabinet ministers over breakfast at Chongwadae [presidential offices] that they should do their best to prevent accidents while he is in America for this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. Kim warned that if there is an accident the person responsible will be taken to task.

The APEC summit, his meetings with APEC leaders and his summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton were historic, Kim said, and Korea must now direct its energies and resources toward the world and the future to raise its international status.

Kim told the cabinet to ensure that the National Assembly passes the pharmaceutical law bill and budget bill.

The Armed Forces will be on Defcon (defense condition) Three while the commander-in-chief is out of the country Nov. 17-25. Defcon Three is the normal status during a South Korea-U.S. military exercise, and the joint military exercise "Foal Eagle" began Monday. Defcon One and Two are declared when signs of war are detected.

Support for APEC Name Change

*SK1511052693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0458 GMT
15 Nov 93*

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea is all for renaming the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) the Asia-Pacific Economic "Community." Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Monday.

"There are concerns that the discussion for community is going too fast," Han said before departing for Seattle, the site of the fifth APEC Ministerial Conference. "There is hesitation because some members tend to identify the word 'community' with the European Community."

APEC's eminent persons group has proposed in a report this year that "cooperation" be changed to "community" to reflect regional unity.

"'Community' is a better choice than 'organization' or 'association' because it is more comprehensive and it reflects the potential for development," Han said.

The 15-member regional body attempts for the first time to hold a summit to address future tasks of the Asia-Pacific, and free trade promotion in the area.

"There will be great progress toward a community if the summit succeeds in agreeing on the basic principle," he said.

China Reportedly Mediating DPRK Nuclear Issue

*SK1611003793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0027 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Washington, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—The United States is ready to hold comprehensive dialogue with North Korea if it meets both of the long-demanded conditions, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday.

In the meantime, he said, Washington will continue to pursue diplomatic means because other alternatives are "unsatisfactory in their own way."

Addressing a press conference with television networks, he said the administration's response to North Korea's "package deal" proposal is that it is ready for comprehensive dialogue that can encourage North Korea in various ways.

North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu hinted at a package deal last week that would exchange a solution of the nuclear problem for better relations with Washington. But before dialogue, inspection must resume on North Korea's nuclear facilities at a level satisfactory to the international community.

North Korea must also accept special inspection on undeclared sites and inter-Korean dialogue must reopen, Christopher said. On what the exact inspection demands are, he said this is up to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to decide.

Diplomatic sources said China, North Korea's staunchest ally, has begun to mediate in solving the nuclear situation. Chinese ambassadors in Washington and Tokyo met with South Korean ambassadors over the weekend and discouraged any stringent measures such as U.N. sanctions.

The Chinese envoys reportedly promised in return for their efforts to persuade North Korea to clear the nuclear suspicion and against any strike against South Korea.

"We are certainly going to pursue diplomatic means," Christopher said when he was asked if he believes such measures will work. "We want to be sure that we exhaust them because the other alternatives are unsatisfactory in their own way as well."

PRC Business Delegation Arrives in Seoul

SK1511123193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1215 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—A five-member delegation from China's largest business group, China International Trust and Investment Corp. (CITIC), flew into Seoul on Monday for a visit at the invitation of the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI).

During their six-day stay in Korea, the visitors headed by CITIC's Chairman Wei Mingyi will meet leading Korean businessmen to exchange opinions on matters of mutual concern.

Chairman Wei is expected to speak at a seminar to be sponsored by the FKI on Tuesday afternoon on the theme, "China's economic development strategy and prospects of Korean industries's advancement."

CITIC is an organization directly placed under the China State Council, which plays the role of a conduit for China's external opening and foreign capital introduction in addition to performing such businesses as domestic investment, trade, overseas investment, financing and real estate.

Government, PRC Consider Aircraft Production

SK1511003293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0020 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China are actively studying the possibility of jointly producing a large passenger plane, according to sources close to the Chinese Government. The sources said the Chinese Government plans to produce a commercial airliner that can carry 100 passengers or more and regards South Korea as an ideal partner for the project.

South Korea, for its part, has expressed great interest in the project and is actively studying the plan, the sources said, requesting anonymity.

Chinese ministries had initially considered choosing McDonnell Douglas Corp. of the United States and Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Co. of Japan, among others, as partners but switched to Korea at the instruction of high government officials, they said.

If the two sides agree on the plan, Seoul and Beijing will launch joint research and development while studying the possibility of raising funds for the project in a third country, they said.

The sources also said the two countries are expected to discuss ways to strengthen technological cooperation when South Korean President Kim Jong-sam and Chinese leader Jiang Zemin meet in Seattle, where they are scheduled to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit meeting.

Government To Establish Office in Taipei

SK1611004793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0035 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—A South Korean representative office will open in Taipei on Nov. 24, some four months after South Korea and Taiwan agreed to establish unofficial ties.

Korea and Taiwan severed formal relations in August last year, after Seoul formed diplomatic ties with China.

A Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday that the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) recently named former Ambassador Han Chol-su as the South Korean representative in Taipei and he is expected to take up his post Nov. 24. Taiwan, however, has not notified Seoul of anything about its plans to set up a representative office here, the official said, requesting anonymity. The representative office in Taipei will take the form of a branch of KOICA, which is a Foreign Ministry-affiliated organization.

DPRK Diplomat in Moscow Said To Be Expelled

*SK1611063593 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
16 Nov 93 p 2*

[Report by Moscow-based correspondent Kim Sok-hwan]

[Text] A high-ranking diplomat of the North Korean Embassy in Moscow is to be expelled to his home country as the Russian Foreign Ministry branded him to be a person to be rejected, it was learned on 15 November. According to diplomatic sources in Moscow and the Russian press, including Radio Liberty, a councillor-level diplomat of the North Korean Embassy in Russia has conducted continuous operations to induce Russian nuclear scientists to go to North Korea. The relevant Russian authorities protested this and are expected to expel him to North Korea.

An informed source said that the North Korean diplomat in question is a councillor-level official who has served in the North Korean Embassy in Russia for over six years.

North Korea has made intensive efforts to recruit Russian nuclear scientists and use them to improve its nuclear energy-related technology and the technology for the production of nuclear detonators and nuclear delivery vehicles. The relevant Russian authorities strongly protested this.

Russian press has reported several times this year that the Russian authorities traced and unmasked the North Korean efforts.

The Russian authorities think the North Korean production of nuclear weapons and nuclear detonators will further heighten tensions on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia. They, therefore, took stern action against this, and arrested some time ago some nuclear scientists at an airport in the act of attempting to leave Russia for North Korea.

DLP Legislator Returns After Moscow Trip

*SK1611030593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0249 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—Rep. Chong Chae-mun, chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee, declined to answer questions on his return Tuesday from a six-day visit to Russia. There is speculation that Chong met with Russian leaders to help resolve the North Korean nuclear issue or arrange a summit between President Kim Yong-sam and President Boris Yeltsin.

"Let's talk about it later," he said when pressed by reporters at the airport to comment on the speculation. Chong hinted that he may have made the trip at the invitation of the Russian side by saying it had been arranged.

"I simply took advantage of a null in the National Assembly's regular session," he said.

Russians Asked To Be Mediator

*SK1611114793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1130 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—Rep. Chong Chae-mun of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], who has just been to Moscow, said on Tuesday afternoon his visit to Russia was an unofficial one made at the invitation of the IMEMO (Russian Institute for World Economy and International Relations).

Meeting with reporters, Chong said Russia is thinking of allowing Korean residents in Sakhalin to obtain double nationality and expressed the wish to resume talks with Seoul to reschedule loan repayment.

Chong said that Russian Vice Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, who has been designated as Russian ambassador to South Korea, told him that his ministry would favorably review the inclusion of Korean residents in Sakhalin in those eligible for double nationality.

Kunadze also asked him to convey to the Seoul government Moscow's wish to resume talks within the year to discuss possible resumption of Korea's economic cooperation loans to Russia, Chong said.

Chong, who is chairman of the assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, said he asked Kunadze, IMEMO President N.V. Martynov and other Russian officials for Russia's positive mediatory role in getting the North Korean nuclear issues resolved.

Russia Fishing Talks Scheduled To Set Quotas

*SK1511022593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0125 GMT
15 Nov 93*

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia began their third fisheries talks Monday in Seoul to set the pollack catch quota for next year in Russian economic waters and discuss resumption of fishing in international waters of the Okhotsk Sea.

National Fisheries Administrator Yi Hul-su and Vladimir Koreljsky, chairman of Russian Fisheries Committee, heads the five-day meeting, in which they will discuss the 1994 catch quota and fish exchange.

Seoul and Moscow have an agreement permitting Korean fishing in Russian economic waters since September 1991.

The two had set this year's pollack catch quota at 155,000 tons and mutual fish exchange quota at 5,500 tons, but fishing has been deterred due to a row over fees.

Yi expressed regret that Korean fishing in Russian economic waters was hindered by Moscow's demand for fees higher than international prices despite its allocation of 150,000 tons.

Moscow proposed oviferous pollack at 500 U.S. dollars a ton and eggless pollack at 300 dollars in February, while Seoul maintained that it was unable to pay more than 450 dollars a ton for oviferous pollack and 250 dollars for the rest.

On Tuesday, fisheries representatives of the two sides will discuss re-opening of the Okhotsk Sea, unilaterally closed by Moscow under a moratorium that took effect in June.

They are expected to take up the controversial issue of nuclear waste dumping by Russia, though it was not initially on the agenda.

Maritime research officials will discuss joint environmental studies.

Government, Spain Meet on Defense Industry

SK1511022993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Spain hold the first meeting of their joint committee on defense industry and logistics Monday through Thursday, the Defense Ministry announced Monday.

An Pyong-kil, second assistant minister of defense, leads the Korean side while Juan Francisco Arenas Garcia, director-general of armament and material, heads the six-member Spanish delegation.

The meeting takes place based on a memorandum of understanding on defense industry and logistics cooperation that was concluded in March.

The committee is expected to discuss ways to promote bilateral cooperation on defense industry and logistics and increase Korea's defense exports to Spain. It will also cover details of mutual cooperation projects in various fields, including medium-sized combination cargo and troop aircraft.

Especially, the two countries are expected to sign a quality assurance agreement for smooth bilateral trade of defense items with a government guarantee of quality.

Broad discussion will be made on additional logistic support for traded material and on possible signing of a patent security agreement between the two defense ministries.

At the same time, businessmen from the Spanish defense industry are touring Korean defense enterprises to study ways for bilateral cooperation promotion.

President Dismisses Party Convention Proposal

SK1511035593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam on Monday [15 November] dismissed a suggestion that the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]

hold an early national convention, and said all activities will have to follow party rules.

Kim, who is also president of the DLP, said some individuals and faction members within the party are making public comments that run against the interests not only of the party but also of themselves, creating the false impression that the party is embroiled in disputes and divisions.

The party has to solidify itself under the leadership and show its position in all issues. Kim said in a breakfast meeting with party chairman Kim Chong-pil and 20 other DLP post holders at Chongwadae [presidential offices].

"Right now, the country is standing at the crossroads from where it can go forward to join the ranks of the advanced nations or fall back to stay with the underdeveloped nations," Kim said.

"That is why we have to carry on our reform. The Democratic Liberal Party has to be the centripetal force for reform," Kim said.

In order to boost the nation's competitive strength, the president said, domestic politics have to change.

"The world is watching the progress of our reform with envy," Kim said. "But they also point out that our political sector still cannot escape from its backwardness."

Kim urged the party leaders to try and pass legislation for election law reform and political reform laws and the budget bill for fiscal 1994 in the National Assembly.

Opposition DP Leader Cited on Party Convention

SK1611085093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0739 GMT
16 Nov 93

[By Kim Myong-chol]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—While the National Assembly is busy deliberating next year's budget, opposition Democratic Party (DP) Chairman Yi Ki-tack is talking about holding his party's national convention earlier than usual and delaying passage of the election law amendment bills until next year.

His suggestion that the DP national convention will be earlier than usual is expected to spark factional strife, while his statement that election law revision will be postponed is feared to worsen relations with President Kim Yong-sam, who recently called for passage of these bills during the current sitting of parliament.

Extremists in the party, challenging Yi's leadership, from time to time call for an early national convention, and Yi has confided to close associates that he is ready to hold a national convention whenever party members want it.

Meeting the press Monday, Yi said that if local elections are held in February and April 1995, as the ruling

Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) wants, the DP may hold its national convention at the end of 1994, several months before the date set by the party constitution, May 1995.

Reps. Kim Won-ki, Kwon No-kap and Han Kwang-ok, all members of the DP Supreme Council, are asking why Yi has suddenly started talking about a national convention that is over a year away when parliament is in session.

Faction leaders have secretly agreed that it is necessary to hold the convention next year to be on a stronger footing for the local elections.

Reps. Kim Sang-hyon and Chong Tae-chol, also Supreme Council members, recently said the party should realign its leadership to fight the local elections. How to do that will be the key issue facing the DP in its convention, which will probably be held toward the end of 1994.

The party is run by a nine-member Supreme Council and centrists complain that there are too many leaders. They want one leader, but extremists oppose having a single leader. The factional strife over the leadership is expected to last until the convention.

Whether the DP convention should be next year or 1995 is an internal party matter, but delaying amendment of the election law directly concerns the ruling party. For the current session of parliament, the DP has adopted a strategy of linking political reform bills, including the election law amendment, and settlement of the past government wrongdoings to the budget bill.

President Kim is adamant that he wants the budget and election law amendment bills passed during the current sitting under any circumstances, even if the DLP has to do it without DP participation.

The DP criticized President Kim for leaving the bill amending the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) law off the list of bills to be passed in the current session. The DP wants this amendment passed along the election law amendments.

Against this backdrop, Yi's suggestion that the election law amendment will be postponed to next year is regarded as a bid to get NSP amendment bill pushed through the National Assembly during its current session.

Yi said that the political reform bills must be passed this year, but the election law amendment bills to which the DLP attaches so much importance may be put off to next year in order to perfect them.

DP spokesman Pak Chae-won says that his party opposes the passage of the election law amendment bills alone.

"The NSP law amendment bill must also be passed," Pak says.

Agreement Reached on Draft Defense Budget

SK1511023093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0203 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—The government and the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] agreed Monday to adopt the 10.1 trillion won defense budget for fiscal 1994 drafted by the government.

The agreement came at a meeting between government and party officials, including Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae and DLP National Defense Committee Chairman Sin Sang-u.

Sin said that although the 1994 defense budget shows a nominal increase of 3 percent from the previous year, when inflation is taken into consideration it actually represents a drop of 4 percent.

NSP Director Refuses To Disclose Budget Details

SK1611070293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—Director of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] Kim Tok refused Tuesday to comply with the opposition Democratic Party's demand that the NSP disclose details of its budget.

"If the agency's budget is disclosed, it will become possible for anyone to figure out our overall intelligence gathering activity," Kim said. "It will also expose the strategy and detailed works of the agency, gravely affecting our national security."

Kim's rejection came in a closed-door hearing of the National Assembly Budget Committee, sources said.

"The size of budget for a nation's security agency means the agency's ability itself," Kim said. "There is no country in the world that discloses its intelligence agency's budget size and details," he added.

Kim said the reason for a whopping 105 percent increase in the agency's budget in 1992 from the previous year was attributable to the construction of a new agency building. The increase had nothing to do with the 1992 presidential election campaign, he said.

Committee May Issue Warning for Hiding Assets

SK1511073093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0550 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—Lawmakers who had not declared part of their personal assets deliberately in their financial disclosure statements may receive no worse punishment than a private warning from the National Assembly Civil Service Ethics Committee.

The committee was meeting Monday afternoon to review the cases of lawmakers suspected of making false declarations and to discuss punishment for those who had not declared their assets on purpose.

"The Civil Service Ethics Law provides that the penalty for intentional failure to disclose assets is a warning and the publication of the offender's name in a daily newspaper, so warning means a private warning," a committee official said.

The committee will give deceitful lawmakers private warnings if no more serious ethical problems are unearthed, he said.

"If the names of lawmakers who hid assets are published in the newspaper, it may end their political life, so we are studying whether to give private warnings to most of them," he said.

"The number of those who are given private warnings will be made public," he added.

The chairman of the opposition Democratic Party, Yi Ki-tae, meanwhile, said, "we are not worrying about the committee's checking, but the (ruling) Democratic Liberal Party must be."

Police, Justice Ministry Capture Illegals

SK1511022393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0145 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—The National Police Agency and the Justice Ministry detained 562 illegal aliens between Oct. 25 and Nov. 13 and will deport them, a police spokesman said Monday. The 176 Koreans who employed them may be subject to legal action.

Most of the illegals are ethnic Koreans from China, 336 (59.7 percent), followed by workers from the Philippines (63), Bangladesh (37), Nepal (31) and the rest of the world (95). Of them, 258 were manual laborers and 155 worked in service establishments such as restaurants. More than 70 percent earned between 350,000 won (437 U.S. dollars) and 550,000 won a month.

As of the end of September, almost 170,000 foreigners live in Korea and nearly 58,000 (34 percent) are illegal aliens. Many have gone into hiding because their work permits expire on Dec. 15.

Press Institute Prepares for General Meeting

SK1511072893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT
15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—The Korean National Committee of the International Press Institute (IPI) formed a committee Monday to make preparations for the IPI general meeting in Seoul in 1995.

YONHAP News Agency President Hyon So-when was elected chairman of the 13-member committee to prepare for the meeting, which about 1,500 journalists from 65 countries are expected to attend.

The committee will start preparations in December by making a videotape about South Korea to be shown at the General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa, in February next year.

Farmers Protest Government Rice Purchase Price

SK161112893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0908 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—Farmers urged the government in a rally Tuesday to increase its rice purchase price more than 16 percent and revoke its decision to open the market to non-trade concerns except rice. The rally, organized by the Central Association of Successors to Farmers and Fishermen, followed a government decision earlier in the day to purchase 9 million sok of rice from this year's harvest at a price 3 percent above last year's.

About 2,000 ralliers said in a resolution that the government should increase the purchase price by 16.7 percent and buy at least 12 million sok to guarantee production cost for farmers. They added that market opening to non-trade concerns is apt to increase the agricultural trade deficit, placing a heavy burden on the economy.

"The government should not open the agricultural market," they said.

They burnt about 10 sheaves of rice at the rally, held at a university in downtown Seoul, in protest against the government decision before marching about four kilometers to Chongno-ku.

Government To Raise Aid Funds for Farmers

SK1611071393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—The government decided Tuesday to raise the amount of state support for farmers stricken by the unusually cool weather this summer from 500,000 won for each family to 1.9 million won. The number of farming families that suffered losses due to the cool summer was 66 percent of the total, or 232,000 families. The government support for them, which will take the form of free grain or payments in cash, amounts to 179.6 billion won, officials said. Specifically, the government will pay 70.6 million won to each farmer with arable land of less than one hectare and who suffered a 50-percent or more loss of his expected harvest due to the cool weather.

The government will provide those farmers with free grain, postpone the repayment of farming funds borrowed from the government or wave the interest on loans. The government will also wave middle- or high-school tuition fees for sons and daughters, or pay them from the government relief fund.

In addition, the government will pay 109 billion won in special payments to farmers, regardless of the size of

their farmland, who had suffered 30 percent or more damage in their harvest because of the cool weather.

Westpac Union Appeals for Closure of Seoul Branch

SK1611020693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0130 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—The union of Westpac Banking Corp.'s Seoul branch urged the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination [OBSE] on Monday to examine the bank's application to close the branch. A petition sent to the OBSE says that the bank is trying to withdraw without agreeing on compensation with its union. The branch was established in May 1986 and has made a net profit of more than 10 billion won (12.4 million U.S. dollars) so far, according to the union.

The OBSE's Monetary Board will meet Thursday to decide whether to approve the closure. The union says the bank is violating a trade agreement and labor laws, and is urging the OBSE to deny approval until it can reach a peaceful agreement with management.

The Australian Bank is reducing its overseas branches in Asia for rationalization of management. The union says the bank promised to discuss compensation but changed its attitude in late July, individually contacting union members and forcing them to resign.

KFTA Releases 3d Quarter Trade Statistics

SK1611011093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0032 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—Seven of South Korea's 10 largest trade surpluses are with countries in Southeast Asia, the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) said Tuesday. The top 10 in January-September were Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, China, Taiwan, Panama, Mexico, Liberia, Vietnam and the Philippines. Korea's largest deficits were with Japan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iran, Kuwait and Australia.

Korea had a 1.07 billion-U.S.-dollar trade deficit with China last year, its the fifth largest, but then ties were normalized on Aug. 24 and trade took off in the final quarter. This year, exports to China soared 122.1 percent in the first nine months to 3.69 billion dollars while imports were almost unchanged at 2.84 billion dollars, up 0.6 percent. The resulting trade surplus of 846 million dollars is Korea's fourth largest for the period.

Korea had a trade surplus of 4.17 billion dollars with Hong Kong in the three quarters, and since most of these exports are bound for China, this makes China the leading importer of Korean goods.

Britain and Venezuela dropped out of the top ten to 20th and 17th, respectively.

Samsung, U.S. Firm To Exchange Technologies

SK1511073193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0606 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—Samsung Electronics Co. has signed an agreement with Micron Technology Co. of the United States on exchanging technologies and on cooperation in exploring new markets, a company spokesman said Monday.

They have agreed to cooperate on 16 megabyte synchronous D-RAM (Dynamic-Random Access Memory) and 8 megabyte window RAM, both of which Samsung developed, and 1 megabyte triple-port RAM, which the U.S. company developed.

Both companies will explore markets through supplying goods on an original equipment manufacturing basis at first, and when the market is expanded fully, each will produce the other's products.

The agreement is a part of positive adjustments in applied memory parts, which gains more importance gradually, he said.

Micron had led some American companies in bringing dumping charges against Samsung products and filing lawsuits against Samsung on violating patent rights.

The agreement will provide momentum to raise the standard of cooperation between the two countries a step higher, the spokesman said.

Micron is based in Idaho with 4,300 workers and output of 525 million U.S. dollars in 1992.

Hyundai Announces Plans for New Factories

SK1511075693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0721 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 15 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Motor Co. will build factories in Wanju in North Cholla Province, Asan in South Chungchong Province and Yeochon in South Cholla Province to expand its capacity to more than 2 million vehicles a year by 2000.

Announcing the plan, company president Chon Song-won said Monday that Hyundai wants to be one of the 10 biggest automakers in the world and will spend 3.3 trillion won (4.12 billion U.S. dollars) on building the factories from this year to 2000 to achieve that goal. Hyundai's first factory was in Ulsan, South Kyongsang Province. Construction of the 180,000-pyong Wanju factory will start this year for completion in 1995 at a cost of 300 billion won. It will turn out 70,000 trucks and buses a year.

Work on the 500,000-pyong Asan factory will start in July next year and end in 1996 at a cost of 1 trillion won. This factory will make 300,000 medium-sized cars a year. The biggest of the lot will be the 1,600,000-pyong Yeochon factory. Construction is to start in 1997 and

end in 2000 at a cost of 2 trillion won. Capacity will be nearly 500,000 vehicles a year and it will have a research center and a test track.

Chon said Hyundai's production facilities in Ulsan are too small and it wants to support balanced development among regions. It will also help the government's plan for Korea to be among the five largest automaking nations by the year 2000.

Car Population Expected To Rise by 1 Million

SK1611070393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT
16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—Korea's automobile population is expected to grow by a record more than 1

million vehicles this year, the Transportation Ministry said Tuesday. The number of registered automobiles was 6,073,000 at the end of October, up 842,000 from the end of last year, and another 230,000 are expected before the end of the December. The 5,231,000 registered automobiles at last year-end were 983,000 more than a year before.

Population growth this year is averaging 2,770 automobiles a day, compared to 2,686 last year and 2,337 in 1991. The hike is the number of new registrations minus the number of registrations that are revoked, either because a car is scrapped or it is exported.

Passenger cars account for 646,000, or 76.7 percent, of the increase this year as of Oct. 31.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore**Malaysia****Minister Anwar Discusses Political Future**

BK1211121993 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 12 Nov 93 p 31

[Interview with Malaysian Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim by BUSINESS TIMES correspondent Yang Razali Kassim and three other journalists from the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, Indonesia's REPUBLIKA, and Singapore's THE NEW PAPER in Kuala Lumpur—date not given]

[Text]

On his future position

[Correspondent] How soon will you be made deputy prime minister?

[Anwar] Mahathir has not informed me on the matter. There is no urgency.

[Correspondent] What will be your priorities as the new deputy president of UMNO [United Malays National Organization]?

[Anwar] My priorities as deputy president are to support the president, to ensure that our policies are being carried out, to champion the cause of the Malays, to ensure that the Malays do support us, and to ensure that UMNO remains a credible party to all Malaysians.

On Mahathir's position in the Umno elections

[Correspondent] Why did Prime Minister Mahathir try to intervene at the last minute, calling on delegates not to vote on a team basis?

[Anwar] I interpret his speech as (that of) a statesman, as a leader. He must be seen to be reflecting the interests of all party members. He needed to pre-empt any possibility of those who can get terribly depressed to leave the party or even join the opposition. There are a lot of rumours being circulated about those disgruntled or frustrated elements who may do so. The prime minister needed to pre-empt all that.

But notwithstanding attempts by the opposition to lure some party members or leaders, I think he has been consistent all along. If you read his speeches four or five years back, even after the Musa-Razaleigh battle, (he said) 'Winners do not take all, losers do not lose all, I will reward the winners but I will not completely ignore the losers.'

The point to be taken is that the party must ultimately win in the (next) general election, meaning all forces must be harnessed to support the party. If you look in that context, he has been extremely consistent.

[Correspondent] Nonetheless, he seemed to be apologising for appearing not to be neutral in the first place?

[Anwar] I think he was very sincere and genuine in asking me not to contest initially.

But he is also practical, and a democrat, when he saw that the divisions wanted to change the leadership to secure a clear line of succession, and a leadership that can perform.

On support for Mahathir

[Correspondent] Have your victory and that of the Vision Team been too strong for Dr. Mahathir's comfort?

[Anwar] This has been misinterpreted. But what is important is that the entire *raison d'être* of the Wawasan (Vision) Team is the support for the vision, and that vision is Mahathir's vision and that leadership is Mahathir's leadership.

I believe that when people talk about strength, my support, and my leadership, they tend to forget that most of the support I gather is because they know I have the confidence of Mahathir. And I am very consistent in my support for Mahathir. I don't think they would accept me otherwise.

[Correspondent] Has there been any doubt about that, about your unequivocal support for Dr. Mahathir?

[Anwar] There seems to be this interpretation because it has been exploited by my political rivals. The conspiracy theory that I explained (on November 3 at a major campaign dinner at Hilton Hotel) and they are saying that if Anwar and his boys are too strong, they would mount a challenge against Mahathir. It is this group (which has been purveying this view).

Until now, I see no indication or sign that Mahathir entertained such (a view).

At least, he made it very clear, and he was very frank in his views that he would not entertain this view whatsoever, at all.

[Correspondent] Did he convey this to you?

[Anwar] Yes. I asked him: Did he hear all these things. He said yes, that it's of no consequence, because he knows that you will have all that (in a political battle).

The only point (they) have against me probably—not my track record, not my credibility—probably because I am too strong and may challenge Mahathir...

Mahathir's position is very secure and comfortable. This talk about him being hypersensitive to seeing one or two popular young guys coming around is something that will crop up in different environments, but certainly not in Malaysia . . .

The Wawasan Team to us represents a leadership group that strongly endorses Mahathir's leadership.

We would assure that he would not find any difficulty in terms of complete loyalty to him in the party.

[Correspondent] There is talk that following the victory of the Vision Team, you will be under pressure to distribute positions. Is this true?

[Anwar] No. There are a lot of allegations by my foes that we demand this post for this person we promise this and that for that person. This is nonsense. But they know me.

In my campaigns, I made it very clear that Mahathir is the leader. We can discuss and give our views. But he should be very comfortable to decide on his own. And the leaders are aware that this should be the position.

On his international profile

[Correspondent] What is the background to your international profile?

[Anwar] This international profile that I make, if it is for the ministry, it is done on Mahathir's instruction or with his concurrence, even international forums, excepting the World Bank, which are not annual events.

The rest are programmes which I've been asked by Mahathir to attend—the Bali Conference, the Hat Yai Conference, the Hong Kong Conference—all were invitations sent to him. He chose to send me instead. I think that wouldn't change.

On money politics

[Correspondent] What is your view about the allegations of money politics in the elections?

[Anwar] What the party is concerned about is widely expected. But to allege that the victory is because of money, I personally do not believe. It's played up by elements who are not realistic in accepting the results.

But excesses there were. I did talk to Mahathir this morning. Probably, the new Supreme Council should address this matter urgently. The issues brought up on money politics—mudslinging, poison-pen letters, rough and crude campaigning—all are part of the excesses. I don't think you should zero in on one ...

[Correspondent] What can be done to curb money politics?

[Anwar] We need very strong ground-rules. I did mention this to Dr. Mahathir—give clear guidelines. I invited 2,000 people to come for dinner tonight. It costs money. Does it constitute money politics? Should a campaign be conducted with no banners, no namecards, no halls rented? We have to draw the line.

I would say that money will have to be used to an extent—serve drinks, food, halls being rented. What

should not be tolerated is buying votes—you distribute money in exchange for support.

[Correspondent] Did the Vision Team resort to money politics?

[Anwar] I don't believe that. There have been allegations. If you say we have big receptions, you tell me who does not have? You tell me which democratic parties in the world do not conduct election campaigns to the extent that we have done here?

What cannot be tolerated is again, the issue of corruption, or bribery. That must be clearly differentiated from the use of some funds for political activities. It's an expensive business, tonight's dinner. That's why six of us are paying for it.

On whether he has changed

[Correspondent] Have your ideals as a youth leader in the 1970's changed since you joined UMNO?

[Anwar] I can't be both a fundamentalist and a secularist, both of which I have been accused of. On whether I've changed tremendously and radically from my past roots, I think the honest reply is that I've certainly matured in the process.

Certainly, my views in the 20s and now, I'm reaching 50, have changed. But certain ideals and principles—my adherence to Islam, Malaysia being a multiracial society, my concern for poverty, corruption, good governance, my democratic ideals—I don't think have changed at all.

Singapore

Trade Ministry Notes Growth in Third Quarter

BK1311120293 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 13-14 Nov 93 p 1

[By Anna Teo]

[Text] Singapore—The economy appeared likely to notch up 9 percent growth this year following a more moderate but still robust and broad-based 9.2 percent third-quarter expansion, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said yesterday.

Next year, with electronics manufacturers cautious about prospects, and the financial boom expected to fizzle out because of the current high base, growth might slow to 6-8 percent, MTI said.

The revised 1993 forecast, up from the 7.5-8 percent projected in August, means the 9 percent average growth rate for the first nine months of the year will be sustained in the final quarter. Most analysts had predicted a weaker second half.

Trade, which has grown at a good clip over the past four quarters, was likely to remain buoyant in the final three months, and strong growth in the electronics industry

would continue to drive the manufacturing sector. MTI said in its third-quarter economic survey.

The recent listing of Singapore Telecom would boost stock market trading and propel growth in financial services in the fourth quarter, it said.

MTI's composite leading index, which forecasts the level of economic activity three quarters ahead, points to continued growth in the first half of next year.

Businessmen polled for their industry expectations were also "moderately optimistic" about prospects over the six months to March 1994.

At a press conference yesterday to release the July-September results, an MTI spokesman described the quarter's 9.2 percent growth rate—which follows a surprise 10.4 per cent surge in the second quarter—as a "more accurate" reflection of economic performance.

Unlike the April-June quarter, when growth was powered mainly by a manufacturing upturn and a stock market bull run, economic growth is better balanced. Growth in all sectors has moderated but is still above 8 percent in each case.

And unlike in the second quarter, the latest set of economic results were well within the expectations of most analysts.

Manufacturing, which has been growing strongly since the final quarter of last year, led with 10.9 percent growth in the third quarter. Most of the key industries raised output, with electronics and petroleum recording the strongest growth of about 25 percent.

The sector continued to soak up slack capacity in the quarter while shedding 2,000 jobs, mainly in the consumer electronics and textile industries, and chalking up productivity gains of 14 per cent.

Productivity growth for the economy as a whole was a "more sustainable" 5.2 percent, down from the high of 7.5 percent in the second quarter.

Growth has also eased in the financial services sub-sector, down from 20.6 percent in the second quarter to 17.6 percent. While the stock market's rise continued unabated in the quarter, domestic and offshore lending by banks slowed.

The financial/business services sector grew at a slower rate of 9.7 percent, mainly because of the 3.9 percent growth in business services.

The construction sector "seems to have stabilised somewhat", the MTI spokesman said, as growth slowed to 8.4 percent.

In commerce, entrepot trade was strong but the domestic trade and hotels/restaurants sub-sectors remained sluggish.

About the only blot on the rosy picture was the 34 percent drop in manufacturing investment commitments to \$834 million [Singapore currency] in the quarter. In particular, all the key foreign inflows were down. But the MTI spokesman warned against reading too much into quarterly trends.

Commitments for the first nine months already amounted to \$2.8 billion, or 80 percent of last year's \$3.5 billion total. In particular, local investors accounted for a record 38 percent of the third-quarter inflows.

Indonesia

Border Treaty Signed With Papua New Guinea

BK1611024293 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] A common border bilateral agreement between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea was signed yesterday by the Indonesia-Papua New Guinea Joint Border Committee and was witnessed by Home Minister Yogie S.M. in (East-West St James) city in Papua New Guinea.

The Home Ministry's Public Relations Chief, Yusak, clarified that the signing of the bilateral agreement was a follow-up to the previously held 11th Joint Common Border Committee meeting held in Manado, North Sulawesi, in November last year. According to Yusak, the bilateral agreement, among other things, stressed on the issue of air crossing arrangements between Hemptani airport in Jayapura and Madang in Papua New Guinea.

Air Exercise With Australia Begins 13 Nov

BK1211124893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The Indonesian Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force [RAAF] will begin a three-day joint air exercise codenamed "Elang Ausindo" in Medan tomorrow. The joint air exercise will involve Indonesia's F-5E Tiger fighters and Australia's F-A18 Hornets fighters. Colonel Sumihar Sihotang, training director of the Indonesian Air Force, said in Medan this morning that the exercise will consist of air battles involving 42 flights. The Indonesian Air Force aircraft from the 14th Squadron at Iswahyudi Air Base in Madiun are now in Medan, while the four RAAF F-A18 Hornets led by Wing Commander Lt. Col. Bill Johnson arrived at Medan Airport this morning.

University Students Protest State-Backed Lottery

BK1311130893 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 4 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—About 120 University of Indonesia students marched to the Ministry of Social Services in Jakarta yesterday demanding the abolition of the state-sponsored SDSB [pilantrophic donation with prizes] lottery.

The "Yellow Jackets", named after the color of their school jackets, made a rare appearance after a virtual absence from street demonstrations for more than a decade to take up the issue Bandung students began rallying around last month. The students from various fields of study, who failed to meet with Minister of Social Services Inten Suweno, presented a challenge to a debate with her on the SDSB, a lottery administered by her office, on November 15.

Syafei Anjasmaya, the Director General of Social Assistance, who met with the students said he was not empowered to say anything beyond what has already been stated by the minister. "I guarantee that this dialog will give you the same information you are all used to hearing," he said.

The students, who shouted chants, appeared at the ministry with posters and huge banners condemning the government's policy on the lottery.

"Go To Hell With Your SDSB," one poster read. "How Long Will You Betray People?," a banner read. Still another raised the question of the lottery's impact, saying: "SDSB Is a Poverty Machine." The lottery has long come under fire because the main buyers are poor people who waste what resources they have on the hope of winning large cash prizes.

"As students we are obliged not to blind ourselves to gambling being legalized in this country," Hardi Juanda, chairman of the student senate, said.

The students took a particular offense to remarks made by Minister Inten and Attorney General Singgih, who likened the link between SDSB and the people to pigs and Moslems.

Both officials said Moslems would not kill pigs because they are forbidden to eat pork. Using the same argument, they said Moslems should leave the SDSB alone if they disagree with it.

Bagus Hendraning, the cochairman of the student senate, dismissed the argument, saying that God had created pigs, while the government created the lottery.

The Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) has declared SDSB haram (forbidden by religion).

The University of Indonesia, once the hotbed of student politics, has been virtually dormant for more than a decade. The initiative in student demonstrations has been taken up by private universities or out-of-town colleges, including those in Bandung.

Last month, thousands of students in Bandung demonstrated against the SDSB. The protest was largely ignored by the government, which has decided to extend the lottery for another three years. The government has reiterated its stance that the revenues collected will be used for social-welfare purposes and also for the development of sports nationwide.

Officials at the Ministry of Social Services yesterday unsuccessfully tried to calm the students.

"Let me explain why we came here with loud shouts. We feel that the authorities's ears cannot even hear our voices," the students responded.

Meanwhile, former coordinating minister for politics and security Sudomo has appealed to the people to stop demonstrating against the SDSB. He warned that certain third parties would take advantage of any street protests to cause disturbances.

"It's okay to disagree, but if you do, you should limit yourself to advising people against buying the SDSB coupons," Sudomo, who is now chairman of the Supreme Advisory Council, was quoted as saying by the ANTARA News Agency.

General Urges Halt to Protests

BK1511154793 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Armed Forces Commander General Feisal Tan-jung has called on members of the public to stop staging protest demonstrations against the SDSB [philanthropic donation with prizes] lottery, because the government has paid attention to their demand to discontinue the lottery. Besides, it is feared that undesirable groups will manipulate the demonstrations.

Speaking on behalf of the Armed Forces commander at a press conference this afternoon, Brigadier General Syarwan Hamid, chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces Information Service, said people must understand that mass demonstrations are hard to control and can easily be turned into counterproductive activities. Therefore, undesirable groups that want to undermine national interests must not be allowed to manipulate such demon-strations. The Indonesian Armed Forces believe that the people have staged sufficient protest demonstrations, and call on the people to wait for the outcome of a meeting between the government and parliament on 25 November. Brig. Gen. Syarwan Hamid said the demon-strations are fully appreciated because they reflect public concern on several national issues.

Major General Defends Remark on Succession

BK1411123093 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 2 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Major General R.K. Sembiring Meliala yesterday defended his controversial remark that only a military man could succeed President Suharto, saying that he was not speaking on behalf of the Armed Forces (ABRI).

"I never planned what I had to say. Actually the state-ment that I made was not new. But people simply did not have the courage to express it. I'm speaking for many people and not for members of the Armed Forces alone," he said.

Sembiring, who is a member of the ABRI faction in the House of Representatives (DPR), was speaking to reporters, while watching the chess duel between Anatoly Karpov and Jan Timman.

Asked to comment on how he felt after his remarks caused quite a stir, Sembiring answered calmly: "I feel secure and I'm not afraid of being recalled from the DPR."

Sembiring's statement, which appeared in the DETIK magazine last week, also criticized the just concluded congress of Golkar [Functional Group], the ruling political organization which elected a civilian as its chairman for the first time. He said that Golkar could not survive without the support of ABRI.

ABRI Chief General Feisal Tanjung, who has the power to recall ABRI members in the DPR, has emphasized that Sembiring's statement did not represent the official military position.

Sembiring said many retired generals, including former ABRI chief M. Jusuf, have thrown their weight behind his remarks.

"I played golf with President Suharto a few days after I made the statement, and the President did not ask me about the remarks," he said.

On Saturday, ABRI spokesman Brigadier General Syarwan Hamid told newsmen at a press conference that any statement made by an ABRI member should be considered a personal view, "especially if it deviates from that of the Armed Forces."

Editorial Views Remark

BK151114193 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 1 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Tempest in a Teacup"]

[Text] For quite some time, Major General Raja Kami Sembiring Meliala has been known for his openness. Since his appointment as a legislator in 1987, Sembiring, 55, a graduate of the National Military Academy in 1960, has become known by reporters covering the House of Representatives (DPR) and the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) as a good and solid news source, who does not shun journalists. His statements are usually balanced and contained substance.

With the onset of the era of "openness" in 1987-1988, Meliala also became known as one of the first members of the Armed Forces (ABRI) faction in the House of Representatives to campaign for the new cause by issuing surprisingly bold statements, which really helped to refresh the old atmosphere of inhibition and reserve. As a result, the ABRI faction won considerable sympathy from the people.

However, Sembiring's latest statement, issued on the heels of the closing of Golkar's [Functional Group] fifth

national congress last week, has caused unusual political agitation. Seldom has a statement stirred up so many reactions as this latest one from Sembiring.

In an interview with the weekly tabloid DETIK, Sembiring warned Golkar, which for the first time in its 29-year history elected a civilian as chairman, to keep ABRI and the bureaucracy as its main supporters, or the grouping may crumble. He also said that the majority of people, the grassroots, were still with ABRI. On the issue of the next president, Sembiring predicted that the chief executive would be a noncivilian, since the people would still prefer a military man at the helm.

Commenting on B.J. Habibie and Harmoko, Sembiring said they had no power base and were totally dependent on President Suharto. "Without President Suharto's mandate, they are nothing. When the President is no longer in power, they will also vanish," he said.

Commenting on the just-ended Golkar meeting, he explained that although ABRI controls more than 70 percent of Golkar's regional branches, it did not resort to its vote domination when it came to the election of the chairman out of loyalty to President Suharto, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and concurrently chairman of Golkar's Board of Patrons. "If the Supreme Commander says so (to approve of a certain candidate), we have to be loyal, because we have discipline," he said.

Understandably, Sembiring's blunt statement has stung scores of people. B.J. Habibie reacted strongly, claiming that Sembiring "was not representing the voice of the Armed Forces." He also said that Sembiring's statement that the next president would be a military man "is not in accordance with the constitution."

Over the weekend, Chief of the Armed Forces General Feisal Tanjung said the statements constituted a personal opinion, for which Sembiring himself should be responsible. Gen. Feisal also stressed that ABRI had accepted Golkar's congress results without reservations, despite the smaller number of military people elected to its Executive Board. The military position was restated on Saturday by ABRI chief spokesman Brigadier General Syarwan Hamid.

It is apparent that by classifying the comments as personal opinion, Habibie and Feisal hoped to distance ABRI from Sembiring's statements. Sembiring, in an interview with REUTERS earlier claimed that he was speaking with the support of many ABRI members. And several observers here earlier agreed that Sembiring's statement reflected a general displeasure within the military.

As we mentioned earlier in this column, understandably enough certain elements within ABRI may feel discontented about having to take the back seat following President Suharto's statements recently that ABRI should pursue a new role by remaining in the background, while providing guidance.

But ABRI is known for its long tradition of an exceedingly high sense of discipline and as being a true believer in *Sapta Marga*—the seven-point oath of all soldiers, which emphasizes loyalty to the nation and the country: We believe that in the end this discipline and loyalty will prevail. In fact, this very sense of loyalty is also reflected in Gen. Sembiring's statements.

Thus, one should not misinterpret the present uproar as evidence of a "split" within the Armed Forces. In fact, Sembiring's opinions show that ABRI has its own dynamism, a key factor necessary in order to be able to play a significant role in the country's current politics.

As President Suharto has repeatedly stated, differences of opinion are something that we have to accept in a democratic society. Hence, we believe that any attempt to suppress them would be inadvisable and undemocratic.

'Combat' Battalion To Remain in East Timor

BK1211105593 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 4 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] Dili, East Timor—Out of eight Indonesian army battalions stationed in East Timor, only one is intended for combat, the commander of army units here said.

Col. Johny F. Lumintang was speaking to a visiting group of foreign military attaches here Monday about the security situation and development in Indonesia's youngest province.

To a question how many army battalions were currently deployed in East Timor, Lumintang said there were only eight battalions, seven of which were for the performance of territorial duties, namely to help the civilian population implement welfare and development projects.

The social problems faced by the population were complex as a consequence of centuries-long Portuguese colonisation, he said.

The purpose of the territorial troops was to conduct operations to help the local people free themselves from the poverty and backwardness the colonial regime had bequeathed them, he said.

Only one battalion had combat duty as its main task which was to protect the people from attacks by Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] armed gangs, he said.

About the armed strength of the Fretilin, he said they were estimated to possess a total of 106 pieces of fire arms of various types.

Lumintang also said it was the government's intention to reduce the number of military troops in East Timor gradually as the province's socioeconomic conditions improved.

The visiting military attaches represented amongst others Japan, Australia, Jordan, Germany, the United States, Belgium, Britain, China, Malaysia, Pakistan, New Zealand, Thailand, Vietnam, France, and India.

Laos

National Assembly Chairman Returns From SRV

BK1511143193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The seven-day official friendship visit to the SRV by the high-level delegation of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] headed by Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly, at the invitation of Comrade Nong Duc Manh, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and chairman of the SRV National Assembly, concluded with brilliant success on 14 November.

During the visit to the SRV, Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket led the high-level delegation of the Lao National Assembly to lay a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and to visit President Ho Chi Minh's residence and office. The delegation also visited a number of economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Hue, Quang Nam Province, Da Nang, the Ho Chi Minh City, and Son Be Province. The delegation was warmly and intimately welcomed by the local leadership and administrations at all levels and by the Vietnamese people.

Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee; and Comrade Le Duc Anh, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the SRV, warmly and intimately welcomed and held talks with Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket and his entourage.

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and Comrade President Le Duc Anh highly assessed the official friendship visit of Comrade Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket and the delegation, terming it a gesture of contributions to the strengthening of the friendship relations, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the Lao and Vietnamese peoples in general, and between the two national assemblies in particular.

Comrade Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket paid a courtesy call on Comrade Pham Van Dong, adviser to the CPV Central Committee, and met with senior combatants who used to work with him during the national-democratic revolution.

The high-level delegation of the LPDR National Assembly headed by Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket and the high-level delegation of the SRV National Assembly headed by its chairman, Comrade Nong Duc Manh, met and held talks under an atmosphere of warm fraternity, understanding, and mutual trust.

During the meeting, the two sides informed each other of the changing domestic situation in each country and exchanged views on the strengthening of cooperation between the two legislative organizations. This is aimed at increasing the special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the two peoples of Laos and Vietnam.

The two sides exchanged views on the international and regional issues of mutual interest.

Comrade Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket firmly believed that under the leadership of the CPV Central Committee, led by respected and beloved Comrade Do Muoi, the fraternal Vietnamese people will score yet greater successes and triumphantly implement the resolution of the Seventh CPV Congress.

Comrade Chairman Nong Duc Manh hailed the initial important achievements made by the multiethnic Lao people under the beacon of the fifth resolution adopted by the LPRP and implemented in accordance with the guidance of Comrade President Kaysone Phomvihan. The multiethnic Lao people are persistently carrying out the tasks of national defense and national construction. Political tranquillity has been ensured and the living conditions of the people incessantly improved. The influence of the LPDR has been heightened in the international arena with every passing day. Since the promulgation of the constitution and a number of other laws, the LPDR state has gradually turned to the management of society through laws, thus making the Lao people proud and confident in the party and the LPDR state. Comrade Nong Duc Manh expressed firm conviction that under the leadership of the LPRP Central Committee led by respected and beloved Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, the fraternal Lao people will be able to score yet greater achievements, victoriously implementing the strategy of socioeconomic development from now to the year 2000, aimed at building Laos with peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity, thus contributing to the cause of peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region and the world.

The two sides were pleased to see that the special relations and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries are being incessantly consolidated and developed. The visit to the SRV by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee and prime minister of the LPDR, in April 1993 and the visit to Laos by Comrade Le Duc Anh, Political Bureau member of the CPV Central Committee and president of the SRV, marked a step of ceaseless development in the friendship relations, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties and states of Laos and Vietnam in the interests of the two peoples and for peace, stability, cooperation, and development in Southeast Asia and the world.

The two sides were unanimous on the direction and methods of cooperation between the two legislative

bodies and designated the offices of the two legislatures to sign and translate into practice a cooperation plan.

Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, chairman of the LPDR National Assembly, expressed profound appreciation for the comradely and fraternal warm and intimate welcome extended to his delegation by the SRV National Assembly, the Vietnamese people, and local administrations at all levels throughout the visit.

The high-level delegation of the LPDR National Assembly headed by Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket returned to Vientiane on the afternoon of 14 November. A grand welcoming ceremony for the delegation was held at the National Assembly Hall with the presence of Comrade Vongphet Saikeuyachongtoua, member of the LPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the LPDR National Assembly; members of the National Assembly Standing Committee; and high-level cadres attached to the assembly.

Bui Van Thanh, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, was also on hand to welcome Comrade Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket.

Khamsai Souphanouvong Report: 2d Installment

*BK1411145793 Vientiane PAS4SON in Lao 20 Oct 93
p 3*

[Second installment of "report" by Finance Minister Khamsai Souphanouvong to the Second Ordinary Session of the Third National Assembly convened in Vientiane from 27 September to 8 October 1993, entitled: "The Implementation of the 1992-93 State Budget and the Draft 1993-94 State Budget"—date not given]

[Text]

3. The Remaining Tasks

In parallel with the tasks which have been accomplished, there still remain two further problems: the organization of tax collection and the effective transformation of expenditure into plans.

Even though the government has issued a number of decrees endorsing the tax and duty policy aimed at increasing revenue for the budget, the implementation of these laws has not yet been effectively enforced. However, they have created fundamental factors for continually mobilizing revenue in 1994. The mobilization of revenue for the budget in accordance with the previous policy, such as taxes from profits and incomes, is still plagued with loopholes which can be exploited by tax payers for tax evasion. However, we are now able to identify these loopholes and are set to rectify them in the future.

This year is the first in which the budget has been implemented in a vertical line in which responsibilities are delegated to the provinces in accordance with the responsibility-sharing plan for all ministries and services as endorsed by the National Assembly. The organizing of

the implementation of expenditure is not yet well executed. Confusion still remains between the vertical and horizontal lines. The follow-up on expenditure in order to evaluate its effectiveness has not yet been initiated.

III. The Collection of Revenue for the Budget

The target of revenue collected for this year is 124.13 billion kips. It is expected that some 121.7 billion, an equivalent of 98 percent, will be collected.

1. Revenue from taxes, duties, and fees:

The target is 70.2 billion kips [figure as published] but it is expected to collect about 85.9 billion—an equivalent of 93 percent. Of this, the collection of import duties and export fees surpasses the target by 26.5 percent. 94 percent of indirect taxes and 65 percent of direct taxes of the expected target are expected to be collected.

Revenue from import-export duties is expected to exceed the target and revenue from indirect taxes, mainly from business taxes, will vary in accordance with the tempo of economic development.

The collection of direct taxes, especially from profits and other income taxes, has not yet been effectively executed as planned. The collection of taxes by relying on the amount of income generated by companies and individual employees is still encountering numerous difficulties. This is because some companies concoct profits by falsely reporting that they are operating at a loss while many others conceal the actual profits from revenue offices.

All the new policies put into effect since early this year have not yet been effectively implemented. Only 55 percent of the planned taxes on agricultural production and land use can be collected so far. It will take some time to publicize and enforce the decree on land use tax which was promulgated in March this year. In addition, the enforcement and promotion of the decree on the registration of various contractual documents—for example, transaction contracts and documents on the transfer of ownership and the establishment of companies—announced by the government in March this year, has still been delayed. Therefore, up to now only little outcome has been generated by the effect of these policies. However, they will become an effective source of generating revenue in the future.

2. Revenue that is not derived from taxes:

This kind of revenue is derived from rents of government land and property, charges from government services, shares of earnings made by state enterprises, interests from government loans to state enterprises, sales of surplus materials, and the transfer of management of state enterprises. The target revenue in this category is expected to be 29.03 billion kips. However, the actual figure in this area is expected to rise to 35.9 billion kips—an increase of 23 percent from the projected target.

The rise in the revenue in this category has stemmed from the sales of part of government shares in the beer and soft drinks companies and the Lan Xang Hotel to the private sector, which have generated a total income of U.S. \$15.6 million.

3. Revenue from sales of timber:

The timber selling committee previously expected to earn an estimated 35 billion kips from timber sales and to contribute 24.2 billion kips of this earning to the budget. Revenue from timber sales constitutes an important factor in balancing the budget because it is a primary source for earning foreign currencies.

However, it is expected that revenue from timber sales will be only about 19.8 billion kips. For the record I would like to point out that 67 percent of the entire timber exploited is from dead wood, trees submerged in the Nam Ngum reservoir, logs felled by storms, and tree limbs. The felling of green trees is permitted only in areas where a survey has already been conducted. This is to show that the government is well aware of the problems created by the timber industry for the environment.

4. Revenue from foreign sources:

Revenue from foreign sources is in the forms of foreign currencies and of funds for projects.

Revenue in the form of foreign currencies is received as aid from foreign governments and as macro loans from international financial institutions through agreements. By the end of this year, the actual revenue from these sources is expected to be 20 billion kips. The rest will be received in 1994.

Revenue from funds for projects with agreements on soft loans attached with minimal conditions (40-year periods of repayment, grace periods of 10 years, and 1 percent of annual service charges) or from aid donated by foreign governments, international financial institutions, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations is expected to be about 44.3 billion kips by the end of this year. This amount of money will be spent for building the socioeconomic infrastructure, such as communications routes, telecommunications facilities, hydroelectric dams and high-voltage power lines, irrigation and water supply projects, and services in the fields of education, public health, and culture.

5. The total revenue for balancing expenditure:

By the year's end, the total expected revenue of 192.56 billion kips collected is set to offset part of the expected expenditure. Of the total revenue, 121.69 billion kips will be derived from internal sources, 64.27 billion kips from loans and aid, 1.1 billion kips from sales of government shares, and 5.5 billion kips from the leftover budget carried over from the previous budget year.

IV. Expenditure from the Budget

The expenditure expected from the budget plan for the entire year is 224 billion kips. However, by the year's end, it is anticipated that the actual expenditure will be only 191.1 billion kips, an equivalent of 85.3 percent of the planned annual budget. Of this, only 61 percent of the expected expenditure from foreign funds for projects will be consummated while 95.3 percent of the normal expenditure will be fulfilled.

The expenditure from the budget for the 1992-93 fiscal year has been implemented under the condition that our state is obligated to pay a large sum for theremaining debts throughout the country. At the same time, the state is also committed to pay salaries to its employees on a regular basis as pledged to the National Assembly in February this year. All this is aimed at completely ridding the budget of all debts each year.

1. Debts carried over from the previous year:

The expenditure carried over from the previous year includes unpaid salaries in some provinces and districts. By August this year, 15.53 billion kips of this expenditure were already dispensed out of the projected 16.5 billion kips for this year. The aim in fulfilling this debt payment is expected to be accomplished by the end of September.

Philippines**Ramos Secures \$3 Billion From U.S. Investors**

BK1611064493 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] President Ramos' trip to the United States has so far resulted in \$3 billion worth of new U.S. investments to the Philippines. This is according to Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro, who says half of these new investments will go to power projects. The remaining new investments will involve textiles and toys.

President Ramos and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have agreed in principle to increase bilateral trade including countertrade arrangements. The two leaders yesterday discussed the possibility of Israel's setting up aircraft facilities at the Clark Air Force Base. President Ramos also told Rabin that Philippine construction companies can possibly tie-up with Israeli firms in the development of Palestinian areas. The two officials also exchanged invitations to visit each country's in the future.

Meanwhile, President Ramos is satisfied with the way things are turning out after five days in the United States. He made the assessment after an early morning jog at New York Central Park. Later the chief executive met with senior executives of some of the world's biggest corporations. He told them that the Philippines offers many opportunities to investors.

President Ramos met with 13 leading U.S. bankers and automakers in New York City. He urged businessmen to reconsider the Philippines as part of their worldwide operations. Ramos is also scheduled to attend the combined meeting with members of the U.S. Business Council, Asia Society, Philippine-U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other business associations.

General Orders Rescue for U.S. Missionary

BK1611065293 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], has ordered the rescue operation for the American missionary kidnapped in Sulu yesterday intensified. The kidnap victim is Charles Walston, a Protestant missionary. Walston was abducted by armed men in Pangutaran Island, Sulu. Abadia ordered the directive to Major Gen. Guillermo Ruiz, head of the 2d Marine Battalion based in Mindanao.

Earlier, the Philippine National Police also launched its rescue operation for Walston.

Meanwhile, the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] and the U.S. Embassy are closely coordinating with the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] to work out actions to free Walston. This morning, an FBI officer and Bob (Hatler), a legal attache from the U.S. Embassy, met with NBI Director Epimaco Velasco to inquire about the developments of the kidnapping case.

Official Comments on Economic Ties To Russia

BK1611041693 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 11 Nov 93 p 16

[By Paul N. Villegas]

[Text] The Philippine and Russian governments are working on two agreements that would strengthen economic relations between them, a foreign affairs official said yesterday.

One of the agreements calls for the establishment of an intergovernment Philippine-Russian commission on economic, trade, scientific, and technological cooperation.

The official said the agreement was initiated by Moscow years back to examine potential opportunities both countries could exploit in the commercial and scientific areas. But the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] has yet to consult other government agencies such as the Departments of Trade and Industry, and Science and Technology to discuss the implications of such an agreement on Philippine-Russia relations.

"Actually, the Foreign Ministry of Russia has already been asking us on the status of the proposed agreement. They are very keen on this (agreement). That's why we've got to get our acts together because this will surely benefit us," he said.

The other agreement focuses on a Philippine-Russia intergovernment commission that would safeguard the "promotion and mutual protection of investments."

The agreement was drafted in September last year. But the "nitty-gritty details will still have to be threshed out among the concerned agencies," he said. The agreement is expected to increase investments from the business community in Russia. Likewise, it is anticipated that Philippine investments in Russia will increase.

Overall trade between Russia and the Philippines reached \$77 million in December last year, with the balance of trade in favor of Russia. Based on last year's figures, Russian investments in the country were valued at \$20 million. These investments are mostly in the shipping and trucking industries.

No figures were given by DFA officials on Philippine investments in Russia. They said, however that a local company named Galaxy has established a joint venture agreement with a Moscow firm a few years ago. Their business interest in Russia is centered on the Russian firm's telecommunications business.

The official said the Philippine Government is also working on updating agreements with the Russian Government.

The official added, the DFA is still looking for a prospective honorary consul in the Russian far east city of Vladivostok to tap commercial opportunities there for local entrepreneurs.

Recently, Yuri Kostyukov, a Russian businessman from Vladivostok, met with DFA officials to express his interest in becoming the country's honorary consul there.

The official, however, did not elaborate on whether or not they would ask Mr. Kostyukov to become the Philippines' honorary consul in Vladivostok.

Japan Rates Project Management as 'Mixed'

*BK1111094893 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
8 Nov 93 pp 1, 6*

[By R. de la Cruz]

[Text] The review team from Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) recently accorded the country a "mixed" rating for its overall performance in managing the different official development assistance (ODA)-financed infrastructure projects.

This was disclosed last Friday by Allan Ortiz, executive director of the Coordinating Council for the Philippine Assistance Program (CCPAP), in an interview with Business World after he received the preliminary report compiled by the OECF team as a result of its sectoral performance review conducted last month.

The sectoral performance review is conducted as the first step taken by the donor agency in evaluating the Philippine's request for additional financing assistance on some 30 infrastructure projects for possible incorporation in the still pending 19th Yen Loan Package which is set for deliberation in the Japanese Diet first quarter of next year.

The findings of the review team are expected to have an impact on the deliberations of Japanese legislators with the questions of absorptive capacity and wise utilization of soft loans and grants expected to be highlighted.

"As always, they find that some of the projects are doing okay, while some are not," Mr. Ortiz summed up the report. The Government, however, is not yet ready to publish the report as it is still waiting for the concerned government agencies to comment and rebut some of the findings.

He said the OECF mission team commended the quality of projects that the Government is now undertaking. "we have more focused projects at this point which can generate good returns," he added.

Further, the OECF also noted the improving financial absorptive capacity of the government agencies in implementing the projects. As of the latest available data, the ODA utilization rate reached 77 percent or \$3.734 billion out of the scheduled availment of \$4.858 billion last June. "And the rate is getting better," he added.

On the negative comments, the OECF team lamented the "lack of interagency coordination in implementing the projects." One concrete example is the construction project of the Light Railway Transit II, which is part of the 18th Yen Loan Package, a project being endorsed by the Department of Transportation and Communications while being opposed by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Another negative aspect pointed out by the team is the "usual problem of lag in the physical construction due specifically to the right of way and squatter problems," Mr. Ortiz pointed out.

After the initial "winnowing" mission, the OECF team is scheduled to return in December to shorten the "shopping list" further. By February next year, 10 projects worth about \$1.2 billion are expected to be identified as part of the package.

However, despite the scheduled loan application proceedings, the OECF team reiterated its position of linking its support for the country's infrastructure projects with the Government's mission to clinch a medium-term program with the International Monetary Fund.

And OECF has been very steadfast on its commitment as it has yet to accede to the Government's request to "delink" the release of the financing of three power projects under the 18th Yen Loan Package despite the absence of an IMF program.

There is no definite date yet as to when the Philippine and IMF panels will resume their negotiations for the exit program.

The CCPAP has been designated by the different multi-lateral and bilateral financing agencies to be the lead agency in the monitoring of their ODA's to the country. The CCPAP recently launched a comprehensive computerization program for these projects.

MNLF Talks To Resume in Zamboanga City

BK1511051593 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 8

[By Aris R. Ilagan]

[Text] Representatives of the government peace panel and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) have formally agreed to hold another round of talks on 6 December in Zamboanga City as a process of continuity aimed at ironing out critical issues relating to the 1976 Tripoli Agreement.

Ambassador Manuel T. Yan, chairman of the government peace panel, reported to President Ramos after his arrival from Jakarta, Indonesia, that an interim cease-fire agreement has been signed "but there are still wide differences to bridge."

However, Yan said that the two-week peace negotiations between the government and the MNLF, led by its chairman, Nur Misuari, was also marked with cordiality and goodwill.

"Both parties have acknowledged each other's honorable intentions. We were frank and candid in our views and sentiments of the MNLF on the full range of issues, and we have put across our own without deception or duplicity," Yan said.

"Now is the time to pause, perhaps, and examine any commonalities that may be explored," he added.

President Ramos earlier refused to consider the interim agreement as a "cease-fire" but, rather, a cessation of hostilities. He explained that the term "cease-fire" only gives the secessionists a status of belligerence. He nevertheless, welcomed the truce as a positive development that would eventually bring a total climate of peace in Mindanao region.

The signing of the interim agreement was aimed at providing a better atmosphere conducive to the promotion of mutual confidence necessary for the success of the ongoing negotiations. The forthcoming talks in Zamboanga City is part of President Ramos' shifting venue concept aimed at building up confidence of both parties concerned.

"We are scheduled to reconvene in Indonesia in 90 days. By then, we will hopefully have some new options to pursue," Yan added.

The agreement also formalized and strengthened the structure and conduct of the cease-fire which was agreed upon last 5 September 1986 between then President Aquino and Misuari in Jolo, Sulu.

Yan said that the agreement provides for the creation of a joint committee to prepare the guidelines and ground rules for the implementation of the cease-fire, including the restriction of forces of both the government and the MNLF in their respective places to avoid any provocative actions or acts of hostility.

Representatives of both panels also agreed to discuss important national concerns such as national defense, education, administrative system, economic and financial system, regional security force, representation in the national government, legislative assembly and executive council, mines and minerals, and judiciary and the introduction of Shariah Law [Islamic religious law].

Committee To Draft MNLF Cease-Fire Guide

BK1511051993 Quezon City MALAYA in English 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[By Ellen Cruz]

[Text] A joint committee composed mostly of military officers and field commanders of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] will be formed today to draw up guidelines and implement a cease-fire agreement forged last Sunday in Jakarta.

Ambassador Manuel Yan, chief government peace negotiator, reported to President Ramos that both panels also agreed to form five support committees and a mixed committee which will study the nine-part agenda for the second round of peace talks scheduled 14 February.

The nine issues are national defense, education, administrative system, economic and financial system, regional security force, representation in national government, legislative assembly and executive council, mines and minerals, and judiciary and introduction of the Shariah law.

MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari, called on his guerrillas to stay in their camps.

"We want to prevent them from going to the cities at all," he said in an interview from Jakarta with a radio station in Cotabato. "We would prefer that they remain in their camps and other liberated areas."

Misuari, Yan said, is expected to arrive in the country by 6 December to join the mutual meeting of the mixed committee in Zamboanga. Succeeding meetings will be held in other parts of Mindanao.

The committees will also study creation of a provisional government that may be formed in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. This may involve amendment of existing law or enactment of a new law, Yan said.

Rep. Eduardo Ermita (Lakas, Batangas) [Strength, political party in Batangas Province] a member of the government panel, said the feedback is that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front will abide by the cease-fire agreement.

Representatives from the Organization of Islamic Conference will help supervise implementation of the cease-fire agreement.

In Bukidnon, police reported two people were killed and four wounded when about 100 heavily armed Muslim bandits attacked four villages on Monday. Two villagers were taken by the bandits.

Police regional director Alfonso Mora said the attackers fired indiscriminately, seized defenseless villagers, and ransacked their homes. They took about a dozen horses and carabaos.

The attack could be a case of simple banditry or an attempt by some Muslim groups to attract the attention of the government in relation to the Jakarta peace talks.

Businessmen Assure Ramos on Capital Flight

*BK1111054693 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 6 Nov 93 pp 1, 7*

[By Booma Cruz]

[Text] Members of the Chinese-Filipino business community have assured President Ramos it was not true they were pulling out their investments in the country to escape from kidnappers and harassment by tax men.

Meeting with the President on Thursday evening, officers of the Filipino-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Inc. and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry said there was no reason for them to transfer their investments elsewhere.

"There is no such thing as capital flight... Members of our federation, mostly second, third generation, have their roots in the Philippines. Our land is here, our family, everything is in the Philippines, and we are not thinking of going away," James Dy, head of the chamber, told the President.

The Chinese-Filipinos informed Mr. Ramos they were in fact reinvesting the profits they earn from their businesses and investments abroad. They said their investments in other countries should not be misconstrued as "capital flight," since they were merely taking advantage of every opportunity to make money.

The group said that what was important is that the money they earn abroad is plowed back to the Philippines. They cited the massive "investments" of Henry Sy, John Gokongwei, George Dy and Andrew Gotianun, four of the six business leaders personally chosen by the President to help the government finance important infrastructure projects.

A number of newspapers have played up stories of massive capital flight by wealthy Chinese-Filipinos worried about the alleged increase in kidnap-for-ransom cases and the perceived harassment of Chinese-Filipino businessmen by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

"I have noticed that there are still too much reporting in the media that to me is not the truth...as far as the situation in the Philippines, the policies of the government and my own commitments to all sectors of the society are concerned," the President told the businessmen during the closed-door dialogue.

Mr. Ramos asked them to look objectively at the situation, pointing out that conditions in the country were now "a little better" than what it was 20 to 25 years ago in terms of stability, peace and order, and the country's relations with the rest of Southeast Asia and the Pacific nations.

He said there was now cohesion and cooperation at the level of the national leadership—the President, Congress and the private sector—regardless of party affiliations and ethnic origins.

The businessmen asked the President for a "one-time, final" amnesty for delinquent taxpayers.

They said many found it difficult complying with the country's tax laws because of very high taxes and cut-throat competition.

The businessmen said an amnesty would give delinquents a chance to settle their dues with the government and help it raise money to spur the economy and create more jobs.

The President told them to put their proposal in writing.

BIR [Bureau of Internal Revenue] Commissioner Liwayway Chato, who was at the meeting, did not comment on the businessmen's suggestion. In previous statements, she had ruled out any tax amnesty.

Chato, however, denied reports that the BIR was singling out rich Chinese-Filipinos in going after tax evaders.

Vice President Joseph Estrada, who also attended the dialogue, denied there was a surge in kidnappings.

Estrada, however, admitted that kidnapping remains a problem for the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) which he heads.

According to PACC, kidnap-for-ransom cases waned after the death of Alfredo de Leon, leader of the Red Scorpion Group [kidnap-for-ransom group].

The commission noted that most of the kidnappings brought to the attention of the media by the Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Inc. [One for Progress Inc.] and CAAC [expansion unknown], whose members are of Chinese-Filipino descent, were unconfirmed.

"(They) have been consistently supplying unconfirmed kidnapping for ransom cases to the media for reasons known only to them... The irresponsible attitude of portraying the nation as a haven of kidnappers only causes alarm on the citizenry," Estrada said.

A member of the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce reported that two students from St. Jude Catholic School, which is just a stone's throw from Malacanang [presidential office], have been abducted.

President Ramos immediately ordered Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Umberto Rodriguez, who was also at the meeting, to improve security in schools around Malacanang.

At the same time, Mr. Ramos asked the Chinese-Filipino businessmen to form a steering committee on peace and order which would coordinate with law-enforcement agencies, especially the PACC.

The group named Napoleon Ng, a director of the federation, as head of the committee.

Government Approves Seven-Year Energy Program

BK1111061793 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 6 Nov 93 p 18

[By Gerry Lirio]

[Text] The Cabinet has approved the implementation of the Philippine Energy Plan, a seven-year action program seeking to revitalize the power and oil industries at a cost of P583 billion [Philippine pesos]. Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro said yesterday. Lazaro said the plan, which was approved by the Cabinet last Tuesday, called for the construction of new power projects and the exploration of more oil wells up to the year 2000.

Of the P583-billion fund, about P475 billion will come from the government, and the remaining P108 billion from the private sector.

The Cabinet, however, ruled out a proposal to construct another nuclear power plant during the seven-year period.

Lazaro, who favored the operation of a nuclear-fed plant, said the government has to initiate studies as well as negotiations on a nuclear plant within the program period if it feels it has to put up such kind of a facility beyond the year 2000.

The energy plan was based on the assumptions that the country will experience an annual growth rate of 7.8 percent in total energy consumption.

Some P112 billion of the programmed amount will be used for oil and gas, coal, geothermal, and non-conventional energy source development.

The bulk or P413 billion will be used to finance power projects, while P29.9 billion will be used to energize rural areas.

The energy plan is the product of a long-running consultation with energy experts within the government and the private sector and environmental groups. During the consultation process, the participants realized that the country's energy sector was facing major problem areas.

Among these were the high dependence on imported oil, the high cost of electricity especially in the provinces, a heavily regulated oil industry, and imbalances in petroleum refinery production and product demand.

Thailand

Minister Restates Position on Libya Issue

BK1511053993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan, who is chairman of the ad hoc committee for assistance to Thai workers in Libya, reported on the preparations to help Thai workers there. He said agencies concerned have discussed the matter with each other and have set plans and preparations for the assistance. So far, there is nothing to worry about. Some news reports on Thai workers may have resulted from misinterpretation.

Regarding this, the deputy prime minister said he wants to clarify that what the Thai Government has done is not aimed at following a certain country. Besides, the government also has to maintain ties to every country sharing benefits with Thailand. In this respect, the conflict between Libya and the United States is an affair of the two countries, and Thailand will neither be involved in it nor place itself in the middle of it.

However, action on this issue must be made through diplomatic channels to create good understanding between the two countries. Thai workers are currently returning home from Libya in accordance with the contracts and not because of expulsion at all, he concluded.

Deputy Foreign Minister Cited

BK1611091993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said during an interview at Government House today that the Thai ambassador to The Hague and job placement companies have been trying to alleviate the problem of Thai workers in Libya. He said steps would be taken according to proper channels. A number of Thai workers returned home because their contracts had expired, not because they were expelled from Libya. Asked about a report that Libya would suspend visa issuance to Thai workers, Minister Surin said this could only affect a limited number of Thai workers. The deputy foreign

minister said that the outcome of talks was satisfactory at a certain level, and he believes Thailand's effort to settle the problem would satisfy the Libyan leader. Asked about the implementation of the UN sanctions against Libya on 1 December, he said it concerns the United Nations and has nothing to do with the problem of Thai workers.

Editorial Views Libyan Action Against Workers

BK1211155793 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 12 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Thai Government's Position"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry is sending a high-level delegation to Libya to look after Thai workers and to seek a better understanding with the Libyan Government, which accused Thailand of supporting the U.S. claim that Libya is producing chemical weapons.

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, who was on television on 7 November, toughly told Libyan companies to fire about 20,000 Thai workers and send them back to Thailand.

Although both the Foreign and Interior Ministries came out to explain that the action taken against the job placement companies was because they violated Thailand's domestic law and not because Thailand supported the U.S. claim, everything seems too late now, and it seems impossible to look for a better understanding from Libya.

In early October, the Interior Ministry instructed the Police Department to search three companies which recruited workers to work in Libya and arrest their owners. The three companies are: the Handle Group, W and M, and SPC Suphachok Companies. Because of his assumption that the Thai Government acted under the U.S. dictate and took legal action against the three job placement companies, Col. al-Qadhafi took a tough stance in retaliation.

Let us look at the U.S. claim that Libya is making chemical weapons with an aim to strengthen itself in the wake of a conflict with the United States and the UN economic and aviation sanctions it is facing. In fact, the project which the Thai workers are involved in—the construction of an underground water tunnel in Libya, and Libya's chemical weapons project, are two different matters. What happened constituted not only a loss to the three companies, but also an immense loss for Thai workers.

It is noteworthy that the Libyan leader's order chasing 20,000 Thai workers out of his country took place after Thailand became a member of the Nonaligned Movement in October. Again, it is worth considering that the United States would not be happy and approve Thailand joining the Nonaligned Movement if the claim used by the Libyan leader as a reason to fire Thai workers were true.

But after all, the government cannot avoid the responsibility of taking immediate action to cope with the problem facing the 20,000 Thai workers.

Ambassador to PRC's Transfer Called 'Demotion'

BK1411024093 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 14 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Thai Ambassador to Beijing Montri Chalichan yesterday received an official transfer order to become ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry, according to a well-placed source. Mr Montri was alleged earlier to have made offensive remarks against Thai politicians relating to smuggling activities in China. He has denied being an alcoholic and allegations of misconduct.

The 58-year-old ambassador said the reason for his removal was unclear and called for the ministry to set up a disciplinary committee to investigate his behaviour. But foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri refused to set up a panel, adding that the reshuffle of ambassadors was made annually.

Mr Montri has been in Beijing since 1990. He was previously expected to be moved to Greece.

The source said that the position of the ambassador attached to the ministry was deemed a demotion.

A former ambassador to Oman, Manop Phaksuwan, was once affected by a similar order. The source said the two cases were different because Mr Manop was investigated by a disciplinary committee which alleged he was an alcoholic and guilty of misconduct. But no panel has been required to investigate Mr Montri.

Economic Affairs Department director-general Sawanit Khongsiri would be the next ambassador to Beijing, the source said.

Deputy Spokesman Lt Rawi Hongpraphat would take the post of ambassador to Greece.

Minister Receives Outgoing PRC Ambassador

BK1411081793 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 13 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] Thailand and China will exchange ideas on issues of mutual interest and regional stability when Prime Minister Chuan Likphai attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Seattle on 19 November.

Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri made the above remarks after receiving and hosting a luncheon for outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Thailand Li Shichun at the Foreign Ministry yesterday morning.

The foreign minister said that Li Shichun, who had served as Chinese ambassador to Thailand for four years and seven months, had come to bid him farewell. He had expressed his gratitude to the outgoing ambassador for

his contributions to the strengthening of bilateral relations and economic and trade relations between the two countries during his term.

The foreign minister believed that the smooth Thai-Chinese relations would be continuously developed, especially in bilateral trade. As Thailand has suffered a trade deficit with China, the foreign minister hoped that China would buy more Thai products. China has bought rice and rubber from Thailand.

The foreign minister also informed Ambassador Li that Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon would visit three provinces in east China in January next year. He trusted that the Chinese Government would accord her the highest honor during the visit.

Foreign Minister Prasong also disclosed that the Chinese ambassador had asked the foreign minister, in his capacity as the chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, to help strengthen mutual understanding and relations between China and other countries. Prasong said that he would do his best in this regard.

Bilateral Trade With India Set To Increase

BK1011075393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Thailand and India have agreed to increase bilateral trade volume and remove obstacles to trade cooperation between the two countries. This was the outcome of the second Thai-Indian Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi last week.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri led a Thai delegation to attend the meeting.

According to the Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both countries agreed to encourage their private sectors to invest in each other's country. Thailand's investment in India now stands at 3.64 billion baht. Thailand will hold a seminar on investment in Thailand in March next year. On fishery, both countries agreed to undertake a joint venture in overseas fishery and shrimp culture. They will sign a memorandum of understanding on fishery. In addition, both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, energy and nuclear for peace, aviation, culture, and extradition.

The next meeting of the Thai-Indian Joint Commission will be held in Bangkok next year.

Lao Resistance Member Arrested in Northeast

BK1411092193 Bangkok NAEON in Thai 14 Nov 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] A task force team in Ubon Ratchathani Province, led by Police Captain Bencha Kumarathat, on 13 November raided house number 138/136 on Phonphaen

Road, in Tambon Nai Muang, Ubon Ratchathani Province, and arrested Mr. Narin Amonsin, 51, who was charged with illegal entry into Thailand.

After investigation, police learned that the person is a leading member of the Lao resistance movement. The search of the house also yielded to police several items related to his work, including a camouflage uniform with an arm band showing a picture of a black panther and the initials LaoFF (Lao Free Fight) [preceding words in English] on it. Officials also found two sets of khaki uniforms, one long-sleeved and one short-sleeved; about ten sets of field uniforms; one truncheon and a sheath; a leather sheath for an 11-mm gun; and a leather sheath for 11 mm magazines. Police also seized a number of documents and discs containing information and data about the Lao resistance movement.

During the interrogation, Narin confessed that he is a Lao with American citizenship. He arrived in Thailand in June 1991 to work with the Lao Free Fight movement, which is struggling for the independence of Laos. The movement's leader in Thailand is Khamsai Saiyasan, alias Uthen Saisakda, who lives in Ban Samkon, Muang District, Nakhon Nayok Province. Narin said his passport and naturalization papers are being kept by Khamsai.

Before coming to Thailand, Narin said he lived in America for more than 10 years—during the time when Laos was undergoing revolution. He lived in Sacramento, California, with several friends who also worked in the resistance movement. Concerning the movement to overthrow the present Lao Government, Narin said Khamsai is the coordinator of the movement and he had been working with Khamsai for over a year as captain at a restaurant in Ubon Ratchathani.

An official of the task force team said the Thai Government, especially the military, is keeping a close watch on these people. Thai authorities plan a serious crackdown on them soon in a bid to prevent them from using Thailand as base of operations against the Lao Government.

Hmong May Be Allowed To Work in Cambodia

BK1411021293 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 14 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] Magsaysay laureate Phra Chamrun Panchan who provides shelter for 6,500 Hmong hilltribe people at Wat Tham Krabok temple yesterday revealed he was negotiating with the Phnom Penh authorities to send the illegal settlers to Cambodia. Phra Chamrun, the abbot of Wat Tham Krabok, said he believes the arrangement for the Hmong to work in Cambodia would be concluded soon. He stressed that there were only 3,000 Hmong staying at the temple, and not 6,500 as reported by government security agencies.

The abbot said the 3,000 hilltribes people are all skilled workers who would be very useful in Cambodia where many construction projects are now underway. He said

they are skilled in marble works, porcelain, and brick-making which are now in great demand in that country.

The hilltribe people would work for marble manufacturing or related factories run by Thai businessmen who have invested in Cambodia. He said Thai investors in Cambodia are aware of the skill these people possess and would be keen to employ them.

Phra Chamrun's proposal follows the Thai Government's decision to deport all the Hmong at Wat Tham Krabok. They have been charged with illegal entry.

Government security agencies which exposed the influx of illegal immigrants insist there are 6,500 hilltribes people staying at the temple. The abbot said that there have been many news reports about his temple housing the Hmong from Laos who are allegedly loyal to rebel leader Vang Pao.

"Responsible authorities should take action if they have proof that Laotian rebels are using his temple as a base for military operations in that landlocked country," he said.

The monk said many government agencies including the National Security Council, the Internal Security Operation Command, and the Interior Ministry, had visited the temple seeking information about the hilltribes people. He said he provided the officials with information and documents to show that the Hmong are from northern Thailand, and not illegal immigrants from Laos.

"If the Thai authorities who want to please Laos have the documents to prove that the Hmong at my temple are Laotian rebels then they should send these people back to their country of origin," he told the BANGKOK POST.

The monk said he had moved the Hmong from opium poppy-planting areas in the mountains to the lowland for resettlement since last year to combat opium cultivation.

Malaysia Pledges No Shelter for Separatists

*BK1411014893 Bangkok THE NATION in English
14 Nov 93 p A2*

[Text] Malaysian military officials have pledged not to shelter members of separatist organizations believed to be responsible for a terror campaign in southern Thailand earlier this year, according to Fourth Army Region Commander Kitti Rattanachaya. Lt Gen Kitti said on Friday that the military officials had asked the Thai government to supply a list of suspected members of separatist Muslim organizations believed to be in hiding in Malaysia to help in monitoring and possible action against them.

"The Malaysian authorities want the Thai government to identify suspected members of separatist organizations with specific information about their personal data and responsibilities," Kitti said.

The regional Army chief said he was assured by senior Malaysian officers that they would not allow separatist guerrillas to use Malaysian territory to launch their operations in Thailand's southern provinces. He said he was told by Malaysian military officers that Kuala Lumpur would find ways to deal with the issue in January next year after having received the information it wants from the government.

The Fourth Army chief said there were about 130 armed guerrillas who remain active in southern provinces but did not say how many were base in Malaysia.

Kitti had just returned from a meeting with senior Malaysian officers in the northern state of Alor Setar. He said the meeting was the first of its kind in which officers from both sides exchanged views and information as well seeking ways to improve cooperation.

The regional Army chief said the first meeting emphasized the effort to improve communications link between senior military officers on both sides of the border.

Kitti, asked to comment on an opposition MP's claim that the brother of a Cabinet member was an active leader of a separatist organization in Malaysia, said he had yet to investigate the claim.

"I don't want to comment on politics. My responsibility is to suppress separatism. Politicians will take care of their own responsibilities," he said.

Army Dismisses Separatist Link in Arson Case

*BK1511022193 Bangkok THE NATION in English
15 Nov 93 p B1*

[Text] MUSLIM separatists were not responsible for the burning of a school in Narathiwat on Friday, southern army chief Kitti Rattanachaya said yesterday. But the southern teachers federation voiced concern that the latest school fire could indicate a renewal of systematic terror campaigns aimed at bringing down the government. Police found a letter at the scene demanding the transfer of the school principal.

"So the incident had nothing to do with the separatists," the Fourth Army Region Commander told journalists.

Army intelligence officials are helping police find out who was responsible for the arson.

A fire in the library of Wat Pantikarm School in Narathiwat's Rangae district at about 7 pm on Friday was quickly extinguished by local residents and caused only minor damage to some books and the ceiling.

Lt Gen Kitti said he does not think the fire was started to step up pressure against the government. His comments support the opinions of several Cabinet ministers and senior government officials who said earlier said they do not believe the arson was intended to discredit Interior

Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut after he survived the no-confidence debate last week.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said the fire did not appear to have anything to do with the debate and Chawalit. Chawalit was strongly attacked for having disagreed with the opinions of police and Army specialists that separatists were behind the torching of 35 schools in Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani in August.

Chawalit was accused of worrying too much about his New Aspiration Party's political base in the Muslim-dominated provinces to admit that Muslims were responsible for the August fires. A spate of terrorist attacks followed the torching of the schools.

Kitti said documents seized from the camps showed that some wealthy businessmen in the four southernmost provinces provided funds to the separatists.

"But it seems they were extorted," Kitti said. "They are not genuine sympathisers of the separatists."

The southern Army chief said the businessmen concerned will be asked for their opinions on how to prevent future extortion.

On Saturday, Chuan said the military knows the identities of supporters of the separatists.

"Some of the supporters are wealthy businessmen. We know their names and are closely monitoring them," Chuan said.

Former Communists Join Hunt for Separatists

BK1511040793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Nov 93 p A3

[Text] Members of the defunct Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] are joining Army Rangers on their "tours of hell", a journey on machine gun-mounted military jeeps through rugged, winding jungle routes to hunt for Muslim separatist guerrillas. Military sources said the Rangers are getting "essential" assistance from about 10 former rebels who are familiar with the southernmost border jungles after years of playing cat-and-mouse with Thai and Malaysian forces before the CPM was disbanded in late 1989.

The former insurgents are also applying their skills to help the Thai Rangers in the dangerous search for boobytraps. Scattered groups of separatist guerrillas are known to protect their hiding places with landmines.

"We can't eliminate the separatists by using force alone," said one of the sources, who asked not to be named. "We need good intelligence. And for the Rangers, they need good guidance when they venture into unfamiliar territory."

The former communist party fighters were plucked from resettlement camps which were set up in the deep South after the CPM signed a peace agreement with Malaysia and Thailand in December 1989.

The end of the CPM war significantly reduced mistrust between Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, which had accused each other of providing sanctuary for Muslim separatists on the one hand and CPM rebels on the other.

The southern Army said last week Malaysia was considering Thai requests for help tracing key separatist leaders believed to be hiding in northern Malaysia, particularly in Kelantan state.

Authorities are compiling information about the key fugitives in Malaysia, believed to number about a dozen. The Rangers have been offered cash rewards for every guerrilla they arrest or kill. The stepped up Ranger patrols indicate the southern Army has given up its peaceful approach toward the Muslim separatist movement, according to the sources.

Southern Army chief Kitti Rattanachaya was an architect of government efforts to negotiate peace with the movement. But he has declared an allout war on the separatists after a spate of violent incidents in August, including the torching of schools in Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani and an ambush on a train in Narathiwat in which a student was killed.

Donation Increased for UN Disarmament Program

BK1011072593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Thailand has decided to increase its voluntary donation for the United Nations to support the disarmament program. The cabinet made the decision yesterday following a proposal by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thailand, from now on, will donate \$4,000 annually for the United Nations for disarmament. Of the amount, \$3,000 will be given to the UN Peace and Disarmament Center for Asia and the Pacific and another \$1,000 to the Voluntary Trust Fund for UN Disarmament Information Program. The total amount will be drawn from the central fund of the fiscal year 1994 and from the Foreign Ministry's budget from the fiscal year 1995 onward.

Chuan 'Satisfied' With No-Confidence Debate

BK1311020893 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said yesterday he was satisfied with the outcome of the no-confidence debate, but that he would follow up on allegations of corruption.

Speaking after Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut received a vote of confidence of 191-164 and Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon received a vote of 191-167, Mr Chuan said that he had always insisted from the start that the coalition government would have no problems with its voting.

"The Government has the majority but it could not stay in office if we were divided," the Prime Minister said.

He at first thought there would be one less vote since Deputy House Speaker Thawin Phraison had said he would not vote, he said.

Mr Thawin did cast his vote. The only other person who did not vote on the Government side was House Speaker Marut Bunnak. The two ministers who were censured did not vote for themselves but voted to support each other.

Asked if he was now confident of staying in office for the full four-year term, Mr Chuan said he could not afford to be careless. He said he will follow up on the Opposition's corruption allegations and will ask the Interior Minister to look into them.

Regarding the alleged irregular buying of land at inflated prices by the National Housing Authority Mr Chuan said it is difficult for the Interior Minister to look after each agency because they have their own committee to make land purchases. Now the agency concerned will have to be investigated because the minister has to take responsibility.

During the censure debate on Thursday, Chat Thai MP Prathuang Wichenpricha called on the Prime Minister and his Cabinet to set an example for government officials by refraining from corruption and any irregularities. He said government officials would not dare become involved in corruption if Cabinet ministers themselves were honest.

Asked if those close to the minister also caused a lot of problems for him, Mr Chuan said if this was the case, they would have to be dealt with. Otherwise their actions would have an effect on the minister as well as the total image of the Government. He said ministers have to be careful about their aides and those close to them because nothing is secret these days. He said he has asked the Interior Minister also to investigate the tapping of telephone conversations which fell into the Opposition's and later newspapers' hands. This was a matter of individual rights which must be looked after and respected, he said.

"We have to find out how this tapping occurred and which agency was capable of doing it," Mr Chuan said.

He denied that the Government has ever ordered any wire tapping of telephones and the agencies responsible will have to take care that this does not happen again.

Cache of Chinese Weapons Seized in Rayong

*BK1211021793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
12 Nov 93 p 3*

[Text] Rayong—Police and soldiers confiscated a huge cache of Chinese-made war weapons found at a rubber plantation in the provincial capital early Wednesday morning. After being tipped off that war weapons were hidden in the area, police in cooperation with the locally-based infantry division searched a rubber plantation.

They found six sacks containing one RPG-7 rocket launcher, two RPG rockets, another model rocket launcher and 15 rockets, nine AK-47 assault rifles, one 40-mm grenade launcher, six grenades, one medium machinegun and 299 rounds of ammunition, and several other parts of war weapons. The shop is located near the rubber plantation where the cache was found. [sentence as published]

Vietnam

U.S. National Expelled for 'Security' Reasons

*BK1611062493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0603 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] HANOI, Nov 16 (AFP)—Vietnam expelled a U.S. citizen last weekend for reasons of "national security" relating to the southern Ho Chi Minh City, a newspaper received here Tuesday said. The SAIGON GIAI PHONG said Stephen Young was questioned Friday by Ho Chi Minh City authorities about "problems relating to the protection of national security in the city." Young, who had arrived the day before on a tourist visa, left the country on Saturday, it said without giving any other details.

Daily Hails Le Duc Anh's Visit to China

*BK1611081493 Hanoi VNA in English 0658 GMT
16 Nov 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 16—President Le Duc Anh's official visit to China ended in success, marking a new step of development in the Sino-Vietnamese neighbourliness and cooperation, says NHAN DAN in a commentary today.

The paper recalls that while in China, President Le Duc Anh was warmly welcomed by senior officials of the party, state and the people of China. The president had talks and meetings with Chinese leading officials in the atmosphere of friendship, sincerity, respect and mutual understanding. The two sides exchanged at length views on the relationship between the two countries. They highly valued the frequent meetings for exchanging view of the two countries' high-ranking officials as events of very important significance in the strengthening of mutual understanding and trust, and in consolidating the relationship and long-lasting cooperation between the two countries. At the same time, the two sides were happy to see that over the past two years relations between Vietnam and China have been restored and developed step by step, benefiting both sides and contributing to the enhancement of peace, stability and cooperation in the region. However, the two sides held that the implementation of some agreements was still slow, the economic and commercial relations were not commensurate to the potentials and desires of the two countries. They wished to promote their neighbourliness and cooperation in a more stable, long-term, effective and comprehensive way.

On the settlement of the outstanding issues left behind by history and emerging issues, the paper says :

'The two sides highly valued the signing of an agreement on basic principles to solve the border issues between the two countries and considered this an initial important step to create basis for accelerating the negotiating process in order to early sign a fundamental treaty on the border and territorial issues on land and on the sea, certainly making the Sino-Vietnamese border a peaceful, stable and friendly one. While negotiating, the two sides will strive to control themselves and not to let complicated problems arised that have influence on the relations between the two countries and on peace and stability in the region'.

'President Le Duc Anh expressed the Vietnamese people's sincere gratitude to the Chinese people for their precious support for and assistance to Vietnam in the struggle for independence and freedom in the past. He expressed his belief that with common effort, the traditional friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and China will constantly be consolidated and developed, meeting the aspirations of the two peoples, benefiting the trend for peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world as a whole', the paper says in conclusion.

Ministers Attend Shanghai Technology Fair

**BK1511070193 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT
15 Nov 93**

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 15—The 1993 Shanghai Technology Fair was opened at the Giang Vo Exhibition-Fair Centre here yesterday.

Prominent among those present at the opening ceremony were minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Nguyen Cong Tan, Deputy Minister of Trade Ta Ca, and President of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry Doan Duy Thanh. Chinese Charge D'Affaires A.I. Li Jiazhong and vice chairman of Shanghai Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Commission Zhang Xiang were also on hand at the opening ceremony.

The fair, the first of its kind ever held in the country, displays products by 80 Shanghai manufacturing and service companies in the fields of mechanics, electronics, textile, light industry, post and telecommunications arranged in 50 stalls on 1,000 sqm [square meters].

Meetings will be held during the five-day fair between Vietnamese and Shanghai businessmen to exchange views on matters relating to economy and trade aimed at contributing to strengthening the economic relations between Vietnam and China.

Lao Assembly Delegation Ends Visit 14 Nov

**BK1411151193 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT
14 Nov 93**

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 14—The Lao Supreme People's Assembly delegation led by Saman Vi-gnaket, Politburo

member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), left Ho Chi Minh City today, concluding a week-long official visit to Vietnam.

A press release on the Lao SPA delegation's visit to Vietnam was made public in Ho Chi Minh City today. It, among other things, says that in Vietnam, the Lao delegation was received by Party General Secretary Do Muoi and President Le Duc Anh and paid a courtesy visit to Pham Van Dong, advisor of the Party Central Committee.

The Lao delegation held talks with a delegation of the Vietnam's National Assembly led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh, says the press release.

The Lao guests paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited his residence and office. They also toured a number of cultural and economic establishments, and places of interests in Hanoi, Hue Imperial City, central coastal province of Quang Nam-Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City and the southern province of Song Be.

Hanoi City Party Delegation Visits Laos

BK1311101093 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] A delegation of the Hanoi municipal party committee led by Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the CPV Party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi municipal party committee, paid an official and friendly visit to the capital city of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 4 November. The visit was at the invitation of the standing body of the Vientiane municipal party committee.

Greeting the delegation was Comrade Boun-Gnang Volachit, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and secretary of the Vientiane municipal party committee and chairman of Vientiane City. The party delegations from the two capital cities met on the afternoon of 4 November at the Vientiane municipal office. Both sides highly valued the cooperation and mutual assistance between the two cities in the past and agreed to strengthen the fine traditional relations in order to bring about more concrete outcomes in the period to come.

The delegation also paid a courtesy visit to President Nouhak Phoumsavan. During their stay in Vientiane, members of the delegation of Hanoi municipal party committee carried out some fact-finding visits to a number of agricultural and industrial production establishments, and visited some historical and cultural sites in the capital city of our neighbor country. Comrade Pham The Duyet and other comrades in the delegation also visited the Laos-Australia-Thailand Friendship Bridge across the Mekong River, where the construction work was being carried out urgently for the bridge inauguration on 8 April next year.

The official and friendly visit to Vientiane by the Hanoi municipal party committee concluded successfully in an atmosphere of special friendship and comrade-in-arms solidarity between Vietnam and Laos.

Tran Duc Luong Receives Pacific Rim Delegation

BK161113093 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1215 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] At the Prime Minister's Office in Hanoi on 11 November, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong received the visiting delegation of the Pacific Rim Council for Natural Resources, Energy, and Mineral Ores led by its president, (Toris Smith); and the delegation of the UNICOM International Consortium led by its chairman, (Stephen Bickman).

The two delegations thanked the Vietnamese Government for creating favorable conditions for them to visit and hold talks with the agencies concerned, the Vietnam Geological Department, and the Vietnam Oil and Natural Gas General Corporation to prepare for the international conference on geology and exploration of resources, energy, and mineral ores in Vietnam and adjacent regions in early 1994 in Hanoi.

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong briefed the delegations on Vietnam's renovation and its open door policy. He asserted that Vietnam is always ready to expand cooperation with all countries and international organizations on the basis of mutual interest and respecting each other's sovereignty. The deputy prime minister expressed the hope that relations between Vietnam and foreign corporations will be further developed.

Trade Minister, Delegation Visit Cuba

BK1311062893 Hanoi VNA in English 0617 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 13—Trade Minister Le Van Triet has led an economic and trade delegation of the Vietnamese Government for a five-day working visit to Cuba. While in Cuba, the Vietnamese delegation held talks with a Cuban delegation led by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Bacrisas. It also had working sessions with the minister of public health and finance, the chairman of the State Committee for Prices, and president of Cuban National Bank.

At those meetings, the two sides informed each other of the economic and trade situation in their respective countries and exchanged information on trade activities. They also discussed ways to develop trade between the two ministries. The Vietnamese delegation was received by Carlos Lagez, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice president of the Cuban Council of State. Agreements on goods exchange between Vietnam and Cuba for 1994 were signed by Trade Minister Le Van Triet and his Cuban counterpart, Ricardo Cabrisas.

Assembly Delegation Concludes Slovakia Visit

BK1311102693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] A correspondent of the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY based in Prague reported that a delegation of the SRV National Assembly led by Comrade Hoang Bich Son, member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and director of the National Assembly External Relations Committee, paid an official friendly visit to the Republic of Slovakia during 7-9 November. The visit was made at the invitation of the parliament of the Republic of Slovakia.

The National Assembly delegation had meetings with the representatives of Slovak Parliament External Relations Committee. The two sides exchanged opinions on domestic and international issues of common interest to both sides. The deputy chairman of the Slovak parliament, Mr. (Ruska), received the delegation. The delegation also had working sessions with officials of the Slovak ministries of foreign affairs, education, and science. At the meetings, both sides agreed that it was necessary to restore and develop the traditional ties between Vietnam and Slovakia.

German Human Rights Official Visits

BK1311154493 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. Wolf Dietrich Schilling, coordinator on human rights and head of the United Nations Department of the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs, paid a working visit to Vietnam on November 10-12 under an agreement reached by the ministries for foreign affairs of Vietnam and Germany in March 1993.

Mr. Schilling's Vietnam visit this time aimed to strengthen the bilateral relations and mutual understanding between the two countries. During his stay here, Mr. Schilling had working sessions with representatives of the National Assembly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Government's Commission for Religious Affairs to study Vietnam's renovation policy in the juridical field as well as viewpoints and realities relating to human rights in Vietnam. He was received by Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai.

Commentary Views Renovation, Donors Conference

BK1511132593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai remarked that the world nowadays has recognized the success of renovation process in Vietnam. The remark was made at point of his return to Ho Chi Minh

City after attending the Paris Donors' Conference for Vietnam. Following is our radio comment on this remark:

The \$1.68 billion aid to Vietnam raised by recent the Donors' Conference for Vietnam was mostly contributed by Japan, the Republic of Korea, France, and Britain. Japan is the biggest donor with \$550 million. Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, who is the representative of the Vietnamese Government at the conference noted that no country is comparable with Japan in granting aid to Vietnam.

Mr. Khai also said that at the conference, Vietnam and France had agreed on some projects and signed a financial protocol to officially recognize the commitment of the French president, Mr. Francois Mitterrand, for support and assistance to Vietnam.

According to the deputy prime minister, all countries and international organizations at the donors' conference showed their good will towards Vietnam. They considered the most important problems to assist in any project within their capacity.

The fine results of the conference clearly prove the world wide support and assistance to the current process of renovation in Vietnam. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet assigned the State Planning Committee to gather, coordinate, and manage all foreign and domestic financial projects to effectively develop national economy.

World Bank Announces \$30.9 Million Soft Loan

*BK1211065393 Hanoi VNA in English 0622 GMT
12 Nov 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 12—The World Bank has announced a USD [U.S. dollar] 30.9 million soft loan to be granted to Vietnam from next year to help it expand rubber planting areas.

This follows the marked improvement of Vietnam's position in the world rubber market.

After the demise of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe markets, the rubber industry has shifted to new outlets in Malaysia, Taiwan and India. Accordingly, intensive investment had to be put into processing technology, with plants worth millions of dollars, the improvement of latex quality and to meet the requirement of new customers.

Now, first class latex accounts for 85 per cent of Vietnam's processed latex.

Vietnamese latex last year was awarded a silver bowl by International Quality Management for its good quality and is now becoming even more competitive, producing at relatively low price.

Many partners from Malaysia, Taiwan, India and Russia are also negotiating for the establishment of joint ventures in rubber planting and processing.

The rubber harvest is now at its peak. This year the Vietnam Rubber Corporation is expected to meet its target of 76,000 tonnes of latex, which will be an increase of 10 per cent over last year.

The corporation last year earned nearly USD 8.38 million from the export of 9,600 tonnes of dry latex and 2,500 cubic metres of rubber wood.

Already, the World Bank early this month signed the first soft loan to Vietnam after a 15-year hiatus, with USD 158.4 million for the rehabilitation of Highway One and 70 million for a primary education project.

Another loan of more than 100 million for agriculture projects from the bank is expected to get approval late this year.

Court Delegation Visits Thailand 11-14 Nov

*BK1511140593 Hanoi VNA in English 1401 GMT
15 Nov 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 15—A delegation of Supreme People's Court led by its President Pham Hung paid a working visit to Thailand from Nov. 11-14 as guest of the President of Thai Supreme Court Praman Chansu. While there, the delegation held talks with a delegation of the Thai Supreme Court led by Mr Praman Chansu. The two sides exchanged issues relating to the judicial field particularly in the organization system, recruitment and training of judges. The Vietnamese delegation visited the judges' training school in Bangkok, several local courts, especially a juvenile court and a juvenile re-education camp.

Public Trial of Buddhist Monks Starts in Hue

*BK1511041593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0352 GMT
15 Nov 93*

[Text] HANOI, Nov 15 (AFP)—Four Buddhist monks accused of instigating anti-government unrest went on trial Monday in the central city of Hue, official sources said. The public trial would last no more than two days in the former imperial city, a court official told AFP by telephone.

The four defendants are Thich Tri Tuu, abbot of the Linh Mu pagoda in Hue, and monks Thich Hai Tang, Thich Hai Thinh and Thich Hai Chanh, a court official said, adding that some 15 non monks are also on trial.

A number of witnesses will be called, including a senior Buddhist monk, Thich Hai Binh. According to Buddhist dissidents outside the country, the trial is a sham and verdicts have already been reached at a "secret trial" prior to the public trial.

The Thua Thien-Hue provincial court went into closed session at the beginning of the month to "prepare" the trial of the monks who the authorities say will be dealt with as "Vietnamese citizens" rather than clerics, accused of civil order offences. They are alleged to have

instigated unrest which degenerated into violence in Hue on May 24. The monks were arrested in June and July. They belong to the Unified Buddhist Church which opposes state control of religion and is not recognised by the government.

It boasts a two-thousand-year history and demands separations of church and state, refusing to accept the authority of the official Buddhist church set up by the communist state in 1981 over the nation's 50 million believers.

Foreign journalists have been banned from attending the trial which has not been mentioned in the official press.

Hanoi Radio Reports Sentencing

BK1611064193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] As previously announced, on 15 November the Thua Thien-Hue Provincial People's Court opened the first instance hearing to openly try the case of breaching public order in Hue City on 24 May. Tran Ngoc Trung, chief judge of the provincial people's court, presided at the hearing. Lai The Nam, vice director of the provincial people's organ of control, served as prosecutor.

Nine defendants, namely Le Quang Vinh, alias Thich Tri Tuu; Nguyen Dinh Hoa, alias Thich Hai Tang; Nguyen Chon Tam, alias Thich Hai Chanh; Le Phu Thinh, alias Thich Chi Thinh; Nguyen Van Minh; Nguyen Hoang; Nguyen Khuong Hai Chi; Tran Xuan Quyen; and Nguyen Van Vinh were brought to court.

A summary of the case is as follows: At about 2100 on 21 May at Thien Mu Pagoda, a man died of burns caused by petrol. When this happened, Le Quang Vinh ordered Le Van Dai to report by telephone to the local administration of Huong Loan Village. The victim was taken immediately to a hospital, but died afterward. A search to determine the identity of the victim began.

Without knowing the victim's identity, Le Quang Vinh insisted that the man was a Buddhist who immolated himself. He set up an altar and erected a sign that read: On 21 May 1993, or the first of the fourth month of the Year of the Rooster at this site, a Buddhist disciple voluntarily immolated himself.

On the morning of 24 May, representatives from the People's Committee and Fatherland Front of Hue City met with Le Quang Vinh at the office of the Hue City People's Committee. Le Quang Vinh admitted that he did not know the victim's identity, but insisted that the man was a Buddhist who immolated himself. At the end of the morning meeting, the Hue City People's Committee brought Le Quang Vinh back to the Thien Mu Pagoda in a car.

While Le Quang Vinh was still in the meeting at the people's committee office, Nguyen Chon Tam had phoned the Thien Mu Pagoda and said that Le Quang Vinh had been arrested. A number of priests were

exhorted to perform a sit-in protest across Le Loi Street, causing a serious traffic jam on the Phu Xuan Bridge of National Route No. 1-A. Nguyen Dinh Ho, who was a monk from Long An Pagoda in Quang Tri and who was present at Thien Mu Pagoda at the time, played a major role in aggravating the situation.

Le Phu Thinh jumped on the roof of the peoples committee's car and shouted insults on the administration. Nguyen Dinh Hoa, Nguyen Chon Tam, Le Phu Thinh induced some extremists like Nguyen Van Minh to stop the car, roll it over, and set it on fire.

After careful investigation, the Thua Thien-Hue Province public security force established the victim's identity and located his relatives. He was identified as Dao Quang Ho, born on 20 October 1941, a resident of 235/7 Tran Hung Dao Street, Long Xuyen Town in An Giang Province, and not a follower of any particular religion.

All evidence presented in court proved that Le Quang Vinh was the leader of the riot, and all other defendants were found guilty of disturbing the public order. The court applied Sentence B, Clause 2 of Article 198 of the Criminal Code to the cases of defendants Le Quang Vinh, Nguyen Dinh Hoa, Nguyen Chon Tam, and Le Phu Thinh; and Sentence A, Clause 2 of Article 198 of the Criminal Code to Nguyen Van Minh, Nguyen Hoang, Tran Xuan Quyen, Nguyen Khuong Hai Chi, and Nguyen Van Vinh.

Considering the level of seriousness of the offence, the honest cooperation of the defendants, and the letter asking for leniency by the Standing Committee of the Thua Thien-Hue Provincial Buddhist Congregation, the provincial people's court established the sentences as follows:

- Defendants Le Quang Vinh, Nguyen Dinh Hoa, and Nguyen Van Minh were sentenced to four years imprisonment.
- Defendants Nguyen Chon Tam and Le Phu Thinh were sentenced to three years imprisonment.
- Other defendants were sentenced from six months to two years of imprisonment.
- Defendant Nguyen Van Minh, who set fire to the car of the Hue City People's Committee, was ordered to pay damages of 226,347 million dong, in accordance with Article 30 of the Criminal Code.

The trial has attracted the attention and widespread support from thousands of people in Hue City.

National Defense Conference Held 9-11 Nov

BK1211065993 Hanoi VNA in English 0634 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 12—A national conference on national defence was held here on November 9-11.

Prominent among those present in the conference were Dang Quang Thuy, vice chairman of the National Assembly; Tran Duc Luong, deputy prime minister;

Gen. [General] Doan Khue, Politburo member of the party Central Committee, vice secretary of the party Committee of the Vietnam People's Army, and minister of national defence; and others.

The conference heard reports on the implementation of the national defence work in various localities and branches over the past year. The conference worked out new orientations and tasks for the years to come. The conference stressed that in the coming years, the work relating to national defence in all localities, ministries and branches of activities should be regarded as an important part of the party and state's policies of national defence, and an decisive factor for success of the defence of the Vietnamese socialist homeland in the new situation. The conference unanimously noted that in the past years, substantial achievements had been made in national defence, thus contributing to the maintenance of political stability and the strengthening of the country's defence capacity.

Addressing the conference, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Do Muoi praised the results recorded by the people and the armed forces in national defence and security, which helps in the maintenance of political stability, independence, sovereignty, national security and territorial integrity, creating favourable conditions for pushing up the country's renovation process.

Vo Van Kiet Inspects Hydroelectric Project

BK1611100093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet paid a visit to the Thach Nham hydroelectric power project in Quang Ngai Province on 13 November. He held a working session with leaders of the province, technicians, and workers of the project to discuss the construction work.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet contended that the Thach Nham hydroelectric power project is one of the most important infrastructure projects of the state that plays a significant role in developing the socioeconomic situation of the province.

Workers have completed several subprojects at the construction site during the past years. Many of them demanded high technology and great efforts especially during the last dry season. The prime minister urged the Ministry of Water Conservancy and the working teams

to integrate efforts to complete this key project by the end of 1995 to help the province effectively fight against hunger and poverty.

The prime minister also discussed measures to develop the socioeconomic situation and to exploit effectively the Thach Nham project with provincial leaders.

Ministry Deals With Publishing Violations

BK1511074993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] From July of this year, despite the absence of a decree to regulate the Publishing Law, the Ministry of Culture and Information has started administrating publishing, printing, and distribution activities in accordance with the new law. The ministry has thoroughly reviewed the publishing plans of both the central and local agencies and regulated the publishing of 1994 wall and desk calendars.

The ministry has also handled a number of breaches of Article 22 of the Publishing Law. For instance, it has stopped the distribution and withdrawn the book "Rebellion" published by the Writers Association Publishing House. It has also suspended for further assessment the script of the book "God Is Dozing" from the Labor Publishing House and dealt with the case of the Haiphong Paper Corporation, which printed hell-money [paper money burnt for dead ancestors] for foreigners without permission.

Paper Exposes Development Seminar as 'Hoax'

BK1611082093 Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 16—The newspaper SAIGON GIAI PHONG said that in Ho Chi Minh City today an agenda that had been circulated for some days now about an 'International Seminar on Development for Vietnam' to be held at Metropole Hotel in the city on November 27 was a hoax and that the self-styled 'Movement for National Unity and Democratic Building', which claimed to be the organiser had never existed at all.

The paper said letters from readers seeking information about that 'seminar' had prompted it to [ask] for explanation from the relevant authorities. It transpired that no legal, duly licensed organisations in Ho Chi Minh City or elsewhere in the country was known under a similar name, the paper said. It was also ascertained that the announced 'seminar' was a hoax, the paper said.

Oil Field Production Passes 20 Million Tonnes

*BK1311062293 Hanoi VNA in English 0605 GMT
13 Nov 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 13—The twenty millionth tonne of oil was pumped up at 8 A.M. on November 12 from the Bach Ho (White Tiger) oilfield on the southern continental shelf to the pride of nearly six thousand Vietnamese and Russian officials and workers of the Vietnamese-Soviet oil and gas joint venture enterprise (Vietsovpetro).

The first barrel was pumped from Bach Ho in March 1986 after three years of establishment of the joint venture.

Production was 41,800 tonnes in 1986, one million tonnes in 1988 and five million tonnes two years later.

Bach Ho is expected to turn out 6.3 million tonnes of crude oil this year. As of Nov. 4, Vietsovpetro had exploited more than 5.1 million tonnes of crude.

At the same time, active preparations are under way for the exploitation of two other oilfields, Rong (Dragon) and Dai Hung (Big Bear), both on the southern continental shelf.

According to analysts, the three above-mentioned oilfields have a recoverable oil reserve of 750 million barrels. From seven to eight million tonnes will be tapped in 1995, which hopefully rises to more than 15 million tonnes/year by the years 2000-2005. By then, Vietnam will rank eighth among the 16 big oil producers in the world and 46th among 75 oil producing countries.